

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Hospital pay action threatened

Leaders of 250,000 hospital ancillary workers told employers yesterday they were refusing to negotiate on a 4 per cent pay offer.

They gave a warning that the threat of industrial action was looming over the offer, which they said was derisory and would leave most ancillary staff below the official poverty line.

A similar reaction came from leaders of 130,000 hospital administrative and clerical workers in separate pay talks.

The ancillary workers adjourned without a new date for talks being set, after the management side offered to raise basic rates by 4 per cent from April 1 in line with government policy. The four unions involved want a 12 per cent rise, a shorter week and more holidays.

Exit case man's jail term cut

A 30-month jail sentence imposed on Nicholas James Reed, former general secretary of Exits, was reduced to 18 months by the Court of Appeal in London yesterday.

The judges ruled that although Reed, aged 34, of Sanford Walk, New Cross, south London, deserved a more than nominal jail term for such serious offences, justice could be done to him and the public interest by reducing his sentence.

Reed, jailed at the central Criminal Court in October for conspiring to aid and abet suicide and aiding and abetting suicide, had his appeal against sentence allowed, but the Court of Appeal refused him leave to challenge his convictions.

Plessey decision reserved

Scottish judges have reserved judgment in an appeal by the management of Plessey against an earlier court ruling that workers could continue a six-week occupation at its factory in Bathgate, West Lothian.

The appeal at the Court of Session, Edinburgh, was regarded as a test case on the right of industrial occupiers in Scotland. The judges will issue a written judgment later.

Silent tribute to shot PC

A thousand policemen stood in silent tribute at the funeral yesterday of Detective Constable James Porter, who was shot dead in a wages robbery in Bishop Auckland, Durham nine days ago. Every police force in the country was represented at a Mass at St Patrick's Church, Langley Moor, Durham.

Director cleared

Anthony Barry, aged 42, a company director, of Old Nazareth, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, was cleared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of being involved in a plot concerning forged £5 notes worth £2m.

Unionists reject Prior's plan for devolution

From our Correspondent, Belfast

The plan by Mr James Prior, Head of State for Northern Ireland, to introduce a progressively maturing form of devolved government has received a double setback.

Yesterday the executive of the Official Unionist Party rejected the scheme as a "phony system of government". Mr Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the SDLP, also attacked the plan on the ground that it was based on the failed philosophy of Unionism.

The executive is the main policy-forming body of the leading Unionist party and its decision yesterday must be seen by the Secretary of State as a blow to his hopes of success for an early political initiative.

In a statement endorsing the policy of majority rule, the executive declared it was satisfied that Mr Prior was in fact seeking to enforce a phoney system of government. It also agreed that if an election were held, the party would put its own views on devolution to the electorate and seek endorsement. The aim would be to work for genuine democracy, designed to divide the United Kingdom.

The party is not anxious for further talks with Mr Prior until it has studied the White Paper which he is expected to present to Parliament.

Mr John Hermon, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was directed by the High Court in Belfast yesterday to explain the circumstances surrounding

the disappearance of a woman who was last seen when she left home with police officers, four months ago.

Mrs Margaret Russell, aged 66, lived in Ballyclare Street, Belfast, with her daughter and son in law Kathleen and Christopher Black and their children. The application to the court was made on behalf of Mrs Russell's husband, Joseph and Mrs Mary McGahey another of her daughters.

Mr Richard McLaughlin for the family, seeking a writ of habeas corpus, said that it was not certain whether Mrs Russell went voluntarily or whether police took her against her will. Since she left home, police were not prepared to disclose any information about her or her whereabouts, he claimed.

In an affidavit, Mrs McGahey said that she had not seen her mother nor received any communication from her since November 24, 1981.

"When I last saw her, she was in her usual good health and spirits but she was concerned and anxious over the arrest of her son in law. In view of the circumstances of my mother's disappearance I have contacted numerous persons and instituted numerous inquiries to try to establish her whereabouts and her general state of well being," the affidavit said.

Mr Justice Kelly granted leave for notice of motion to be issued on the Chief Constable, directing him to attend court next Friday and explain the circumstances surrounding the case.



No key to the door: Bulu the Orang-utan, who celebrated her twenty-first birthday at London Zoo yesterday, with her youngest son, Bintang, aged three, Bulu was the first Orang-utan to be born at the zoo, and now has five offspring.

New police chief for Devon and Cornwall

From Craig Seton, Exeter

Mr David East, who was chosen yesterday to step up from deputy to be Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall, said that he was as committed to the concept of community policing as Mr John Alderson, who retires next month after establishing a reputation as Britain's most radical senior policeman.

Mr East, aged 45, the deputy for four years, began his police career as a constable in Berkshire in 1958. He was chosen to succeed Mr Alderson by the Devon and Cornwall police authority from a short-list of six, which included Mr David Hall the Chief Constable of Humberside.

He takes over on May 1 when Mr Alderson, who was frequently criticised for his alleged "soft" approach to policing by other senior police officers, retires five years early.

Saying that he was as committed to community policing as Mr Alderson, he added: "I see community policing very much as a means towards the deployment of resources but it is not an end in itself. It is one aspect of policing."

He described as nonsense talk of hard and soft policing methods, and Mr Alderson's "It is not a question of hard or soft policing, it is a question of maximising resources; the need to encourage the public to form a partnership with the police based on the realisation that the police alone are not in a position to prevent crime."

Mr East: "No major change in direction."

Mr East, married with an adult daughter, pledged to build on the work started by Mr Alderson but more or less admitted that "magnificent chief constable" would be difficult to follow.

He said there would be no major change of direction in the force. But questioned about Mr Alderson's stated refusal to train his men in the use of CS gas and plastic bullets after last year's riots, Mr East said he had his own views about that but that he was not prepared to make them public.

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Conviction for murder quashed

The Court of Appeal overturned the murder conviction of a man aged 23 yesterday because of error by Judge Clarke, former Central Criminal Court judge, it was the second time this week that he has been overruled.

On Monday the court ruled that the judge, who has retired, had put unfair pressure on a murder jury, and quashed the resulting conviction of Newton Rose, a Londoner.

Yesterday the court of Appeal held that the judge, in another stabbing case, had neglected to deal properly with the accused's defence of provocation.

Colin Simon Ward, a decorator, of Orchard Road, St John's Wood, north London, failed for life on October 7, 1980, for the "knife killing" of Mr John Hall a year earlier, had his murder conviction quashed.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Lord Justice Shaw and Mr Justice Russell, substituted a conviction of manslaughter and an 11-year jail sentence.

Lord Justice Watkins said Judge Clarke's directions on provocation were not dealt with adequately, if at all, in a lengthy summing-up. "We have come reluctantly to the conclusion that the verdict of murder cannot stand and must be regarded as unsafe and unsatisfactory."

He added, however, that the case remained serious in that the victim's young life was torn away from him.

Verdicts on 'slum house' fire victims

By David Nicholson-Lord

A verdict of misadventure was returned yesterday on eight people who died when a fire swept through three lodging houses in Notting Hill, west London, last December.

The unanimous verdict came after the jury had sought clarification from the coroner on the meaning of unlawful killing, another verdict open to them, and on a landlord's duty of care towards his tenants. The houses had been described as a "slum" and a "house of cards" during the two-week hearing. There was immediate criticism from solicitors representing relatives of some of the fire victims, six of whom were foreigners.

Mr Michael O'Dwyer, a law centre solicitor, described the failure of Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster coroner, to add recommendations on fire safety to three verdicts as an outrage. "Tenants' representatives said that Westminster council has taken over another five of the houses of Mr Charalambos Poryiouras, the Greek landlord, under control orders issued under the Housing Act of 1964."

Mr Poryiouras had refused to answer questions at the inquest, on the ground that they would seek to incriminate him. He was not available for comment yesterday. The jury at three houses in Clarendon Gardens, with 56 rooms and 100 tenants sharing one entrance. Relatives of the victims were supported by North Kensington Law Centre and by councils over fire precautions in multiple-occupancy houses.

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Science report Looking East to a new ice age

By the Staff of "Nature"

The possibility that instabilities of the ice sheet of east Antarctica may cause future ice ages has been raised by two American glaciologists.

Sudden changes in the Antarctic ice sheets have been thought to be responsible for worldwide glaciation, but until now most attention has been concentrated on the west Antarctic ice sheet, which is unstable because its base lies well below sea level.

Instability of the Antarctic ice sheets can affect the Earth's climate in two ways. If large tracts of ice break off, more sunlight will be reflected directly back, and the melting ice will cool the southern oceans. Although the east Antarctic ice shelf is largely grounded on land lying above sea level, it is much bigger than that of west Antarctica. Instability could be generated by the accumulation of snow and ice on its upper reaches, perhaps resulting in a sudden surge of ice.

Evidence for such a surge has been inferred from raised sea levels of about 8 metres in the Pacific 120,000 years ago.

Dr Gerald Schubert, from the University of California at Los Angeles, and Dr David Yuen, from Arizona State University, have suggested how the east Antarctic ice sheet could surge. They say the ice's normal slow deformation could accelerate dramatically if a significant portion of the ice sheet exceeded directly back, and the melting ice will cool the southern oceans. Although the east Antarctic ice shelf is largely grounded on land lying above sea level, it is much bigger than that of west Antarctica. Instability could be generated by the accumulation of snow and ice on its upper reaches, perhaps resulting in a sudden surge of ice.

The estimated critical thickness is close to the measured maximum thickness of about four kilometres, suggesting that the ice sheet is close to the point where instability may occur. Once it becomes unstable and starts to slide rapidly, frictional heating could accelerate the surge.

The thickening needed to reach instability must come from increased snowfall over the Antarctic, which could be produced by variations in global warming by the Sun.

The new model may, therefore, provide a link between astronomical theories for the inception of the solar variations and the inclination of the Earth and the ice sheet surge theories, by using the former to initiate the latter.

If correct, such a catastrophic surge might take no more than 100 to 1,000 years. Source: Nature, vol 296, p127, March 11, 1982.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$2.38; Britain 20.00; Canada 1.80; France 1.80; Germany 1.80; Italy 1.80; Japan 1.80; Netherlands 1.80; New Zealand 1.80; Norway 1.80; Portugal 1.80; Spain 1.80; Sweden 1.80; Switzerland 1.80; Taiwan 1.80; Thailand 1.80; USA 1.80; USSR 1.80; Yugoslavia 1.80.

Divisional Court

Wrong statute for indecent behaviour

Parkin v Norman Valentine v Lilley. Before Lord Justice Donaldson and Mr Justice McCullough. [Judgment delivered March 10]

Where allegations were made of indecent behaviour of a homosexual nature in public lavatories, charges under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1936, as amended, would, more often than not, prove inappropriate.

The Divisional Court so observed, allowing Thomas Henry Parkin's appeal by case stated from Nottingham Crown Court (Judge Elliot) in which justices who dismissed his appeal against conviction by Mansfield Justices for an offence under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1936, and Robin James Valentine's appeal by case stated against his conviction by Mansfield Justices for a similar offence.

Mr Adrian Furd for Parkin; Mr Richard Payne for Valentine; and Mr Richard S. A. Benson for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE McCULLOUGH, reading the reserved judgment of the court, said that the cases raised questions involving the application of section 5 of the 1936 Act where accusations were made of indecent behaviour of a homosexual nature in public lavatories.

Section 5 provides: "Any person who in any public place... uses threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour... with intent to provoke a breach of the peace or whereby a breach of the peace is likely to be occasioned shall be guilty of an offence."

Each appellant was found to have been handing his penis in a way which clearly indicated that he wanted his behaviour to be seen by the only other person present at the urinals in a public lavatory. In each case, unknown to the appellant, the other person was a police officer in plain clothes who, after a suitable interval, arrested him.

Each was convicted and appealed by case stated. Each submitted that the behaviour was not insulting and that no breach of the peace was likely to be occasioned by it.

Counsel for the appellant Parkin submitted that no one was insulted by the appellant's conduct and that in any event an insult requires a statement or insult which was absent in the present case.

Having regard to the tenor of the 1936 Act as a whole, their Lordships believed that no such intent need be proved, despite the words of Viscount Hailsham in *Brutus* (1973) AC 354, 365G.

What was required was conduct of a threatening, abusive or insulting character which was likely to occasion a breach of the peace. It did not matter whether anyone felt insulted or whether there had been threatening, abusive or insulting behaviour.

Insulting behaviour did not lose its insulting character simply because no one who witnessed it was insulted, any more than it would lose its ability to provoke a breach of the peace merely because no one who witnessed it was provoked.

The words of the statute were: "whereby a breach of the peace is likely to be occasioned." That was a penal provision and the courts had to take care that the former expression was not treated as if it were the latter.

The Act did not make it criminal to use offensive or insulting behaviour whereby a breach of the peace is likely to be occasioned, if the behaviour is not insulting, or if it is not likely to occasion a breach of the peace.

The appellant's conduct was aimed at only one person who, he hoped, was a homosexual. He was not trying to insult that person, and another homosexual would surely not have felt insulted by the appellant's conduct. The appellant's conduct was aimed at a police officer who was there to catch anyone behaving in that way. It was unrealistic to say that he would have felt insulted.

The person insulted, for that was what the appellant's conduct amounted to, might very well have been an ordinary heterosexual using the lavatory for its proper purpose. On the basis that it was not insulting, the appellant's conduct was tantamount to the statement: "I believe you are another homosexual," which the average heterosexual would regard as insulting, the conduct could fairly be regarded as potentially insulting, and therefore be described as insulting behaviour.

Was a breach of the peace likely to result?

Neither the appellant nor the police officer was likely to break the peace and no third party was likely to have observed the appellant's conduct. It was possible that someone might have seen and might have caused a breach of the peace, but no court could have been sure that that was likely. The court could only have convicted the appellant by treating the word "likely" as "liable" and accordingly the conviction would be quashed.

Of the questions posed, two involved questions canvassed above: namely, in deciding whether behaviour was insulting and whether a breach of the peace was likely, it was proper to take into account the reactions, not only of the person to whom the behaviour was addressed, but of others who might have observed it.

In their Lordships' judgment it was right to take that matter into account for the purpose of deciding both questions.

The remaining question was whether a breach of the peace was restricted to acts of violence, the justices having found that there was a strong probability of a breach of the peace occurring by a disturbance or out of violence.

It was conceded by Mr Benson

Law Report March 13 1982

Video recording evidence admitted

Kajala v Noble

Before Lord Justice Ackner and Mr Justice Woolf

[Judgment delivered March 10]

The rule that a party must produce the best evidence that the nature of the case would allow and that any less good evidence was to be excluded had not been applied in the present case. The conviction would accordingly be quashed.

Where the words of a statutory provision apply described the conduct complained of there could be no objection in law to framing a charge under that provision. But those cases demonstrated the difficulties which could sometimes occur when behaviour was charged under a provision which was never designed to deal with it.

Each charge depended upon its own facts, but if proper attention was paid, as it should be, to the words "likely" in the phrase "whereby a breach of the peace is likely to be occasioned," section 5 of the Public Order Act 1936 would, more often than not, prove to be an inappropriate charge in the case of homosexual activity in public lavatories.

Solicitors: Hawley & Rodgers, Nottingham; Temple Wallis, Nottingham; Mr D. W. Ritchie, Nottingham.

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Solicitors: Hawley & Rodgers, Nottingham; Temple Wallis, Nottingham; Mr D. W. Ritchie, Nottingham.

Additional district auditor not unlawful

Derby City Council and Others v Secretary of State for the Environment

Before Mr Justice Forbes

[Judgment delivered March 8]

The Secretary of State for the Environment was entitled to require local authorities to have their accounts audited against their wishes by an additional district auditor, and such action was not ultra vires and was not contrary to the policy and practice approved by the Secretary of State in 1972.

Mr Justice Forbes so held when dismissing claims by the Derby City Council, and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and Newham that the additional district auditor they had appointed had the power to audit their accounts. The secretary of state had indicated to them that he would require them to have

their accounts audited by an additional district auditor.

Mr Christopher Cochrane for the applicants; Mr Simon D. Brown and Mr John Laws for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE FORBES said that the applicants had suggested that the auditor should be looked at in both its historical context, with local authorities being organised into recognised geographical districts each with a single identified district auditor, and by statutory interpretation.

Under section 154 of the Local Government Act 1972 they had a choice of appointing a district auditor or an auditor in private practice approved by the secretary of state. He was now in effect taking away the district auditor they had chosen and was substituting another type of auditor, they had rejected.

secretary of state had the power to appoint such district auditors as he thought necessary. There was no warrant for assuming that anything in the 1972 Act required district auditors to be organised in geographical districts.

As long as he did not act unreasonably, the way in which the secretary of state organised the accounts to be audited was up to him. It followed that there was no reason why he should not make one particular account from a geographical district and announce that he was going to appoint a specific district auditor to audit that account as long as the accounts to be audited were up to him.

The second argument, based on the decision in *Padfield v Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food* (1968) AC 997, that a minister should not use his discretion under an Act to thwart or run counter to its policy or objects, was that the policy and objects of the 1972 Act was to give the local authorities power to choose between civil servants (the district auditors) and private practitioners, and the secretary of state was taking away that choice.

However the only choice a local authority had was if it decided to appoint an approved auditor in private practice, it could choose anyone so approved. If it did not elect to make such a choice it had to use whoever the secretary of state appointed as district auditor. The question was not one of personal choice, the local authority had no choice, the secretary of state had none. It could not influence the secretary of state in his choice, or complain when it was made, and the action would fail.

Solicitors: Mr H. D. Cook, Treasury Solicitor.

Irish warrants

In re McFadden

Mr Justice Forbes (sitting with Mr Justice McCullough) held on March 8 in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court that the rule of the Divisional Court known as the "speciality" rule, which required that a person should be prosecuted for any matter following extradition, did not extend to special arrangements made under the Backing of Warrants (Republic of Ireland) Act 1965 and the corresponding Irish legislation, whereby instead of extradition, matters were dealt with by mutual application of each country's warrants.

By Clifford Withers...
The appellant further complained that the original film had been edited in order to reduce it to the appropriate length and in the absence of the cameraman it was not possible to tell whether the film showed the events in their true sequence.
However, no attack had been made upon the integrity of the film in the sense that it had been distorted, in such circumstances it was irrelevant that the film might not have shown events in their true sequence so long as it accurately showed the activities of the appellant.
The appellant finally complained that the justices found that it was a "matter of common knowledge" that a public house in the area was destroyed by fire on the evening of July 3, 1981.
However, the court agreed with the observations of Lord Widgery in *Harries* (1976) 1 QB 773, that it was wrong to conclude that the use by justices of their own local or personal knowledge was sufficient to take judicial notice was merely the date of the fire, in respect of which there was sufficient evidence before them.
The justices were therefore entitled in the absence of any evidence given by or on behalf of the appellant, to convict him and the appeal was dismissed.
Solicitors: Mackenzie Paton & Co, Southall, Metropolitan Police Solicitor.

Whitelaw urges closer public links with police

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr. William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, who is under heavy pressure from Conservative right-wingers to take a tougher stand on law and order because of rising crime figures, yesterday defended the Government's record.

He called for a closer and more trusting relationship between the police and public, so that law-breakers could be isolated and the police could put their new strength to the best possible use in combating crime.

Mr. Whitelaw has been under growing criticism from some right-wing MPs, who have accused the Conservative Party of not living up to its general election commitment on law and order, and his position has been questioned in the powerful backbench home affairs committee. There was further concern this week when Scotland Yard published figures indicating a big increase in violent street crime in London.

Mr. Whitelaw, speaking yesterday at a conference in London, said that the Government had carried out its responsibility to see that courts had adequate powers, and that there was a strong police force with high morale.

The Government had given its full backing to the courts in passing deterrent sentences in these countries of serious crimes of violence and the Criminal Justice Bill, now before Parliament, would strengthen and extend the courts' powers to deal with young offenders.

Mr. Whitelaw said that the Government had increased the number of police officers by 8,000 since 1979, and that the police force was now at its highest level since 1945.

He said that the Government had also increased the number of judges and magistrates, and that the courts were now able to deal with the backlog of cases which had built up since 1979.

Mr. Whitelaw said that the Government had also increased the number of prison places, and that the prison system was now able to deal with the backlog of prisoners which had built up since 1979.

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Lighter Dark Blue: Philip Edwards, from Wolfson College, Oxford, who, at 9 stone, will cox in the women's Boat Race on March 21, being borne aloft by the university team (average weight 11st) yesterday. Mr Edwards and Mark Brockham, who will cox for Osiris, are the first men to take part in the race.

Combined transplant possible

By Our Medical Correspondent

The transplant team at the Harfield Hospital, in West London, would be prepared to carry out a combined heart and lung transplant, should the need arise, the hospital said yesterday.

Two patients have survived such operations performed at the Harfield Hospital, but the hospital said that it would undertake similar surgery if a patient would benefit from it — felt no compulsion to compete with Stamford.

"Operations of this type are not uppermost in our minds. At the moment there are no patients who need it, but if one day the surgeons have a suitable patient, the operation can and will be done."

The short-term outlook for patients who have had heart transplants is improving: 31 patients have been operated on at Harfield Hospital since January 1980, of the 15 who have had surgery in the past year 12 are still alive.

Their latest patient is Mr. Colin March, aged 37, of Perivale, Ealing, London, who had his operation last Wednesday, on the same day that the Popworth Hospital in Cambridge carried out its 30th transplant, using, for the first time a new drug, cyclosporin A, to combat rejection. It has been developed by Professor Roy Calne of Cambridge, and has fewer side effects than conventional anti-rejection drugs.

Mr. Donald Frith, general secretary of the usually moderate Secondary Heads Association, said that he had not known his members to be so angry as over the intrusions of the employers in picking to sack an abhorred teacher.

At a joint meeting yesterday, the teachers' unions reaffirmed their view that arbitration was the "only sensible way forward", and considered further action, including one-day strikes, no contact with colleagues and demonstrations, that might be applied in all authorities should the employers refuse arbitration.

The National Union of Teachers (NUT), the Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association (AMMA), and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NAS/UNT) are already refusing to supervise pupils at midday or to take part in voluntary activities after school hours in a number of authorities.

The NUT and AMMA have called off their action in those authorities that have supported arbitration. Those include all the London and metropolitan authorities, and 17 of the non-metropolitan counties. The latest three to win exemption from sanctions are Chelmsford, Dyfed and Lancashire.

Tens of thousands of children have been affected by the school closure in many rural areas yesterday, as schools closed for the afternoon because of the transport difficulties.

Birmingham, which had threatened disciplinary action against teachers involved in industrial action and to dock their pay, yesterday agreed to withdraw that threat after talks with the NAS/UNT. Lancashire is also threatening to take disciplinary action against teachers imposing sanctions.

The hearing continues on Monday.

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Patrick Murrigh, a senior prison officer, now at Featherstone Prison, near Wolverhampton, who had been at Wilkes Green, said that on one occasion shortly before his death, Mr. Prosser had created a disturbance in his cell which he shared with two other prisoners.

It was decided to move him to a "quiet room" which he agreed was a padded cell. "He was raving that he was Mr. Thatcher's man and he was going to kill him," Mr. Murrigh said.

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£1m arts board proposed

By Christopher Warman Arts Correspondent

A new community arts board with an annual budget of £1m, and an ethnic minorities' arts board with an annual budget of £200,000, are among proposals being considered by the majority Labour group on the Greater London Council for its future commitments to the arts.

They are part of a comprehensive policy prepared by Mr. Tony Banks, chairman of the GLC arts and recreation committee, and are contained in a policy paper now with members of the Labour group. They will be discussed by the group later this month. There may be detailed changes, but the main proposals are likely to be accepted and become policy.

In his paper, Mr. Banks concludes: "For too long the GLC's provision of arts funding has been without any relationship to London's cultural problems. We have been orthodox, establishment-minded, conservative and unimaginative. We now have an opportunity to change this in a radical and dramatic fashion."

He believes that arts funding is far too low and hopes that in three years, the GLC will have doubled its arts spending in real terms. Mr. Banks emphasises that the GLC should not have to fund the national centres such as the National Theatre, the English National Opera and the Royal Opera House. "Such great centres should be wholly funded by the Arts Council and the fact that they are located in London is not a reason in itself for GLC support."

The GLC should seek to disengage from direct funding of the national centres, but "do so by a process of negotiation and agreement with the Arts Council". They will all be funded for the coming year with grants above the level of inflation, and an announcement is expected in about two weeks.

The proposed board would act in an advisory role to the arts and recreation committee, and consist of representatives of the GLC and the Greater London Arts Association's specialist panels, the Greater London Association for Community Artists, and some representation from community arts groups and individuals. It would advise on individual applications for help and make policy proposals to the committee.

In the same way the Ethnic Minorities Arts board would be advisory and its members would include representatives of the Commission for Racial Equality and London's main ethnic communities.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY
Yugoslavs arrest protesters

Belgrade. — Authorities have arrested the people thought to have organized the demonstrations in Kosovo, local Communist Party leaders announced, and said the protesters had committed "acts of treason" against Yugoslavia (AFP reports).

The demonstrators in the predominantly ethnic-Albanian region were mainly students and young people, and were marking the first anniversary of demonstrations last year that degenerated into bloody riots in April.

It became clear that the incidents were far more serious than Yugoslav authorities first admitted as reports of "energetic" police action filtered in. A Kosovo Communist League communiqué issued by the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said that the organizers would face "legal and other measures".

The communiqué urged workers and citizens of the province to oppose what it described as enemy action since it was possible that "the enemy aimed to continue its actions and extend them to other areas by resorting to different methods".

Tornado spies are jailed

Munich. — Three East German spies charged with passing on top security information on the Tornado fighter aircraft were given jail sentences.

Marietta and Jürgen Reichwald and Rolf Horst Hecht were sentenced to 15 months, six and a half years and six years respectively.

Herr Reichwald, aged 37, an engineer working for a German turbine motor building firm, supplied East Germany with details in the aircraft over a six-year period.

'ETA man' held in Mexico City

Mexico City. — A Spaniard who taught medicine at the National University here has been arrested for alleged connections with the Basque terrorist organization ETA, police said.

Sedro Justo Ortega Esquerro, aged 37, was charged with illegal possession of firearms and fake identity documents. Some local reports mistakenly said at first that Carlos, the Venezuelan-born terrorist, was the man being held.

No sex please, we're Swedish

Stockholm. — A Bill to ban Sweden's sex clubs will be presented to the Government later this month by Mrs Karin Söder, Minister of Health and Social Affairs. It aims to make the clubs, a big tourist attraction, illegal from July 1.

Mr Leif Lindgren, who drafted the Bill, said it would cover live pornographic shows only. Explicit sex scenes would still be permitted in serious dramatic works.

Eastern Europe credit curbs pressed by US

From Bailey Morris, Washington, March 12

The Reagan Administration is attempting to put economic pressure on the Soviet Union by urging its European allies to halt the flow of credit to East Europe, senior Administration officials said today.

A team of high-level Administration officials will press for this in talks next week with European leaders in place of renewed attempts to gain European support to scuttle the Siberian gas pipeline.

The Administration's new hard line position on credit was outlined in congressional testimony by senior officials of the State Department and Agriculture Department.

They believe that the Soviet Union is experiencing severe short-term liquidity problems which give the West a new weapon to fight for reforms and a liberalization of martial law in Poland.

The question most on our minds is "How do we put the most pressure on the military government in Poland and therefore on the Soviet Union?" and one of our answers is "Less hard currency". Mr Robert Hormatz, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, said.

He told members of the Senate agriculture committee that several East European countries are facing a severe liquidity squeeze which will force them to make difficult choices between non-food and food imports needed to bolster deteriorating living standards.

The Soviet Union, which had recently reversed past policy and begun borrowing short-term money from Western banks, might well be facing the same problem.

That is the reason the United States has adopted a strategy of trying to force Poland to pay its debts at the same time that it tightens credit to other East European countries and the Soviet Union.

"Our position now is that we want to create a process whereby money flows out of Poland and Eastern Europe to the West rather than the reverse, which has been the case for the last several years," Mr Robert T. McNamara, Deputy Secretary of the United States Treasury, said.

If this is done effectively, it is the Reagan Administration's belief that eventually Poland, Romania and even the Soviet Union will be forced to make big internal economic reforms which will not only better the arms race but liberalize living conditions in these countries.

In pursuing what was described as a new form of hard currency diplomacy, the Administration was stopping short of declaring Poland in default on its debts, which would not be in the West's best interest, Mr McNamara said.

Default would mean that the Soviet Union and the Polish Government could stop payment on past loans while continuing to make payments to other countries, thus reducing the overall pressure on Moscow to pay.

New information suggests that because of falling hard-currency earnings from the sale of oil, gold and diamonds, the Soviet Union is undergoing a severe, possibly shorter liquidity problem which will also affect the East European satellite countries.

Soviet oil exports to the West in 1982, for example, have been estimated at nearly \$14,000m (£7,650m) or about one-half of total foreign exchange earnings. But it now appears these revenues could drop by as much as \$3,000m because of the collapse of oil prices.

The gravity of the Soviet Union's cash-flow problems will become more apparent over the next several weeks when the Russians begin placing orders for the Argentine grain crop, which has been extremely necessary to Moscow's food supply in recent years.

In the past, these purchases have been paid for in cash, but there are indications the Russians will have to ask for short-term loans this year, United States agriculture officials said.

EEC protest cuts £66m from Soviet trade

Brussels, March 12. — The EEC has agreed to a small cut in Soviet imports in a move intended more as a political protest over the Polish situation than as a bid to disrupt East-West trade, diplomatic sources said today.

The sanctions, worked out this week at meetings of EEC state ambassadors would cut Soviet annual exports to the Community by little more than 1 per cent compared to the 1.5 per cent proposed by the European Commission, they said.

There was agreement that this measure should constitute a strong political signal to Moscow and we decided this could be achieved adequately through limited cuts," one senior EEC diplomat said.

It was decided to exclude from the sanctions several articles suggested by the Commission last month as suitable for cuts. These included cars, furs, and industrial diamonds, the sources said. They added that the sanctions would be approved formally by EEC Finance Ministers at a meeting here on Monday.

An American official here described the sanctions as highly significant, despite the reduction in their scope. "The EEC cut is trading bloc and trade is its lifeblood. Any measure at all to limit its external trade is therefore an important step."

The cuts in imports, representing about \$120m (about £66m) worth of trade, will affect a wide range of manufactured products, but not raw materials and energy.

Minister accuses Gaullists
Murdered gaming boss puts politicians in a spin

From Jonathan Fenby, Paris, March 12

Murder, politics and gambling have ignited France's latest scandal which today promised to bring a legal confrontation between a senior minister and opposition leaders.

The murder and gambling elements have been present since Marcel Francisci, Corsican boss of Paris gaming club, was shot dead as he sat in his white Jaguar in an underground garage here in January.

The political element was introduced when police let it be known this month that a tape recording, found in Francisci's pocket contained a conversation concerning two prominent lawyers with connections reaching to the top of the Mitterrand administration.

Then last night M Gaston Defferre, the Interior Minister, put the affair into the public spotlight by accusing leaders of the neo-Gaullist RPR party of having been "protectors, friends and accomplices" of the dead man, who had been a local RPR councillor in Corsica.

Speaking at a rally three days before local council elections, M Defferre singled out M Jacques Chirac, the RPR leader, M Bernard Pons, its Secretary-General, and M Charles Pasqua, leader of the RPR group in the National Assembly. The three men said today they were instructing lawyers to start slander proceedings against M Defferre and M Pasqua said the RPR party would be doing the same.

Francisci established himself as a leading figure on the Paris gaming scene at the end of a protracted gang war from 1965 to 1973 in which 30 people died as underworld factions wrestled for control of the private clubs that are the only legal venue for gaming in the city.

His power base was the Cercle Haussmann, near the Opéra, but his influence extended into other establishments, and he was alleged to have been a prominent member of the "French connexion" narcotics ring.

Francisci's position was suddenly thrown into jeopardy in July when the Cercle Haussmann's gambling operations were closed by an Interior Ministry order on the ground of irregularities. Immediately there were suggestions that Francisci had fallen foul of France's new administration and that he had not suffered before because he had enjoyed political protection.

Some sources reported that, at the end of last year, Francisci had decided to try to reach an understanding with the new Government, and the tapes leaked by police this month show him talking of using the services of M Paul Lombard, a lawyer who is a close friend of M Defferre, and of M Roland Dumas, a Socialist lawyer and Member of Parliament who is a friend of President Mitterrand.

No sooner had news of the tape been made known than there were suggestions that they formed part of an attempt to compromise the Socialist parties and Francisci's protectors and friends.

The existence of the tape, said to record conversations between Francisci and M Defferre, was surprising because the gambling boss was not in the habit of recording such delicate negotiations, the news magazine L'Express, which is generally critical of the Mitterrand administration, noted today.

M Defferre said that when he decided to shut the Cercle Haussmann's gambling activities, "there was a great heightening of tension between the Interior Ministry. For 23 years such a thing had been unthinkable. I received a quantity of letters from these gentlemen of the right calling for the opening of M Francisci's club. I may have occasion to give their names some day."

The minister also alleged that some of the money taken by the Cercle Haussmann had been used to help certain political parties and Francisci's protectors and friends.

As for the tape recording found on the dead man, M Defferre said it must have been put into Francisci's pocket. "Do M Francisci's protectors and friends want to make their complicity forgotten by transferring the responsibility to us?"

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Buttoning-up the alliance: President Mitterrand, followed down the steps of Concorde by Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, arrive in Washington for a luncheon with President Reagan to resolve differences between France and the United States

Latin America in turmoil
Colombia: Guerrillas throw down election challenge

Bogotá, March 12. — Guerrillas who vowed to disrupt Sunday's elections killed one policeman and wounded two others in an attack on a small town near Medellín, Colombia's second city, on Thursday night.

The guerrillas (M19), also known as the "Bambuco Army", launched firebomb attacks on buses in Medellín and Cali, and set off three bombs in Bogotá, according to the national police chief, General Francisco José Narango. One of the bombs exploded outside the headquarters of the National Popular Alliance party (Anapo), he said.

Nobody was injured in any of the bombing incidents, and five guerrillas were arrested in Cali, General Narango said.

During the run-up to the elections, in which 9,000 national, provincial and municipal assembly seats are at stake, the guerrillas have been urging voters to abstain as a way of showing their opposition to the present system of government.

Since the overthrow in 1957 of General Gustavo Rojas Pinilla, Colombia's only military dictator, this century abstentions have ranged between 43 per cent and 67 per cent of those eligible to vote.

The planning of a car packed with explosives in front of the presidential palace on Wednesday was the apparent peak of a campaign staged by M19 to show that Colombia's social problems cannot be solved by the present two-party system.

The Government of President Julio César Turbay Ayala has countered by accusing the guerrillas of trying to intimidate voters, and has urged the population to go to the polls to show their rejection of violence.

The two main parties, the Liberals and Conservatives, regard Sunday's poll as a crucial election which will determine their candidates for the presidential elections in May.

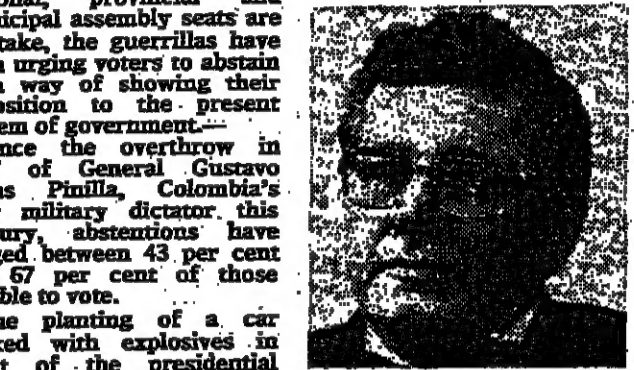
The Conservative Party is seeking the ratification of Dr Belisario Betancur as its candidate, while the Liberals are divided between supporters of Dr Alfonso López Michelsen, Government, and Dr Luis Carlos Galán.

The failure of either of the Liberal contenders to obtain a clear-cut lead would throw the nomination open to an extraordinary convention of the party which would be faced with a much wider field of candidates, none of whom would probably command enough support.

M19 emerged in 1972 as a left-wing faction of General Rojas Pinilla's Anapo party. It gained international attention in 1980, when a group of guerrillas held 13 ambassadors hostage in a two-month siege of the Dominican Republic's Embassy in Bogotá.

Early last year, two attempted "invasions" by M19 prompted President Turbay to accuse Cuba of training and arming the guerrillas, and to break diplomatic relations with Havana.

Since then M19 has combined urban actions with hit-and-run attacks against Army troops in the southern Amazon jungle of Caquetá. According to official figures, 278 guerrillas, 200 soldiers and 100 civilians were killed in armed clashes last year. — Reuters, AP.



President Turbay: Urging people to vote

Surinam: Army crushes attempted coup

Paramaribo, March 12. — Surinam's left-wing rulers said today that they had smashed an attempted coup and captured Wilfred Hawker, the rebel leader.

Leftist colonel Daysi Bouterse, head of the military Government, said in a communiqué that his forces were in full control of the country. Mr Hawker, aged 28, a former sergeant-major, asked his supporters to surrender to avoid more bloodshed in a recorded statement released by the authorities.

The rebellion, which began yesterday, was put down by government troops in an attack early this morning on Paramaribo Army camp held by the right-wing insurgents. Colonel Bouterse said Mr Hawker was wounded in the fighting and was being questioned. Some rebel troops were still free and

people here were urged to remain indoors.

The communiqué said that the authorities thought that a few people had been killed.

It was the second attempt in a year by Cdr Hawker and his supporters to topple Colonel Bouterse's Government, which seized power in 1980.

During the uprising, which Colonel Bouterse described as "wild and senseless", both sides broadcast appeals on radio and television for the support of the 375,000 population. The rebels promised that their National Liberation Council would form a Cabinet with no military members. — Reuters and AP.

El Salvador Junta accused of killing 300

San Salvador, March 12. — The Human Rights Commission of El Salvador said today that security forces killed more than 300 people in San Vicente Department during three days of attacks in January.

Earlier reports placed the number of dead at about 100, but spokesmen for the commission said that the figures were revised after they received testimony from survivors and witnesses.

The 300 were killed by security forces in San Benito, Canpanario, La Pita, Puente, Los Angeles and Las Lomas.

Leftist guerrillas claimed in a clandestine broadcast today that they had disabled a government helicopter bringing troop reinforcements to an offensive in Morazan province in the north-east.

The Salvadoreans are using American-supplied Huey I helicopters to move troops to and from the fighting. There was no immediate government comment on the claim and it could not be immediately determined if the incident involved an American helicopter.

The broadcast claimed to have killed many government soldiers in the Morazan operation and said that two guerrillas had died.

The guerrillas also said that they blew up the bridge by detonating a 500lb bomb that did not explode when it was dropped by a Salvadoran aircraft.

But this was denied by government sources, who said that the bridge was heavily guarded and was open normally to traffic.

Grenada: Defiance after US snub

From Jeremy Taylor, Port of Spain, March 12

Roars of anti-American defiance are likely to sound in the tiny Caribbean capital of St George's, Grenada, tomorrow as the island celebrates the 15th anniversary of its 1979 revolution in the face of fierce American hostility.

Washington views the 133-square-mile island as the eastern end of a strengthening left-wing axis that includes Nicaragua and Cuba, Grenada's only regional ally.

The United States fears that the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) in St George's is keen to foment revolution in other eastern Caribbean islands, and that it intends to open its international airport, now being built at a cost of \$71m (nearly £39m), to Cuban and Soviet aircraft, threatening United States security in the Caribbean and vital import routes through the area.

President Reagan, who believes that Grenada is in the "gripping grip of the Caribbean left", pointedly excluded Grenada from his Caribbean aid package announced in Washington last month. He has refused to accept Grenada's ambassador ordered the American Ambassador in Barbados not to present his letters of credence in St George's.

Last year, joint naval exercises off Puerto Rico by American and Nato forces included the mock invasion of an imaginary island strikingly similar to Grenada and the United States brought pressure on the International Monetary Fund and Development Bank to block financial aid for the island.

"We do not feel we have isolated Grenada," Dr Melvin Evan, the United States ambassador in Trinidad, said. "By its actions, Grenada has isolated itself."

Mr Maurice Bishop, a British-trained lawyer, aged 37, who seized power in a popular coup three years ago, insisted that Grenada poses no threat to the mighty United States. "The PRG has always wanted, and still wants, good relations with the Government of the United States," he wrote to President Reagan last August after an earlier letter went unanswered.

Mr Bishop also insists that the 9,000ft runway being built near St George's with substantial help from Cuba, Libya, Algeria and Syria, is purely the means of developing the island's relatively untapped tourist potential and for the expansion of regional and international trade. At present Grenada is served by a 5,000-ft airfield

an hour's drive from the capital, which cannot take medium or large aircraft or night landings.

Mr Bishop also complained that the United States is being trained in the United States without government interference, for deploying against certain regional States, including Grenada. This amounted to a virtual declaration of war by the United States against Grenada. The letter produced a two-paragraph reply from the Charge d'Affaires at the United States Embassy in Barbados, stating politely that the United States hoped for signs of a serious commitment in Grenada to improved relations and specifically "a policy of genuine non-alignment and progress towards a truly democratic society".

The network of "mass organizations", established in Grenada as a substitute for Western-style democracy cut little ice in Washington, and neither do the PRG's reforms, which include free secondary education and health care. Nor are American troops shed over the island's economic problems, which derive mainly from an unsurprising slump in North American tourism and low commodity prices for its Cocoa, bananas and nutmegs.

Sombre security summit adjourns until November

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, March 12

Western delegates made sombre, sceptical speeches before the stormy four-week session of the European security review conference was adjourned here today. It was agreed to resume on November 9 and to try to conclude a final document "at the earliest possible time".

Western sources indicated much depends on events — especially in Poland — and the prospects for progress. The "gentlemen's agreement" worked out last weekend by the eight neutral and non-aligned for the adjournment finally held.

"Peace is better than quarrelling," said Herr Willi Pahr, the Austrian Foreign Minister, who came specially for the closing plenary session. He hinted that the climate of confrontation in Madrid between East and West has become so oppressive that adjournment was evidently the lesser evil.

Mr Max Kampelman, the United States chief delegate, said: "We close this phase of our meetings fully conscious that the Helsinki process is in danger. Each passing week of our meeting brought with it new tensions as we perceived a curtain of Soviet behaviour which could only be interpreted as disdain. If not defiance, of the Helsinki final act."

Today's adjournment leaves undecided, until the end of the year, what happens to the draft of the concluding documents put together by the neutral and non-aligned nations. It is a text which has been lying around since December for possible amendment and final approval by the 35 nations at the conference.

Very little is offered in that document for an improved code of conduct between East and West in the view of the west. Yet the most striking thing in today's speeches was that no delegation wants the Helsinki process to disappear. "We are making the decision to reconvene, and that is significant because we appreciate the value of our continuing to talk," Mr Kampelman said.

After the military takeover, the Americans originally thought of a separate meeting in January devoted to Poland but the consensus requirement of the conference made that an obvious non-starter. So the big parade of the West's Foreign Ministers took place in Madrid last month. There, after the West took the decision not to work on a single line of a final document while continuing to talk about Poland in the plenaries.

The West opted to wait for better times and Belgium, speaking for the 10 today, expressed a ritualistic hope of concluding a balanced document after the autumn.

There is no certainty that the Soviet Union will obtain even the first phase of a disarmament conference from the Madrid meeting as an element in future propaganda campaigns. This conference, they evidently calculated, made it worthwhile sitting through the sessions reviewing the Soviet Union's systematic violation of human rights and its massive pressure on Poland — the topics which allowed the West to score valuable points.

The Reagan Administration neither liked, nor committed itself to, the French disarmament conference proposal, because the coordinates on future inspection zones extending into the Atlantic might hinder surprise strikes by Washington's rapid deployment force.

Bonn offers Reagan a hearing

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, March 12

While the Labour Party is trying to stop President Reagan addressing Parliament in Westminster Hall, the West German parties have been vying with each other in their desire to get him to speak to the Bundestag.

An invitation will be sent to the president next week after leaders of all three parliamentary parties came out in favour of the idea, a Bundestag spokesman said today. The suggestion first came from the conservative opposition Christian Democrats.

It was quickly echoed by the liberal Free Democrats, the junior coalition partners, and finally, not to be outdone, by the Social Democrats, whose leaders are anxious to demonstrate that the party — despite its anti-nuclear faction — is staunchly pro-Atlantic.

President Reagan would be only the second outsider to address the Bundestag, the first was President Nixon, during a visit to Bonn in 1969. The invitation is part of a scenario developing here to try to convince the Americans of West Germany's wholehearted loyalty to the alliance.

It centres round the Nato summit which the German request, will be held here on June 10.

Iconoclastic bomb

Athens. — A home-made time bomb exploded in Athens cathedral yesterday, causing extensive damage to icons, police said. A hitherto unknown organization calling itself "iconoclast nihilists" telephoned to newspapers to claim responsibility.

CENTRAL AMERICA APPEAL
make war on poverty, not on the poor...

The poverty, violence and suffering in Central America now threaten to engulf the region in a tragedy comparable to that of the Second World War in Europe.

According to Edward Heath, one of the primary causes for this crisis is:

"the long history of repression and exploitation of ordinary people by the government in league with an oligarchy of business interests."

WAR ON WANT works with the ordinary people and their popular organisations in their struggle to end oppression and poverty. In El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and in the Caribbean.

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As the violence in the region escalates, there is an urgent need for more support. We've made our choice — please make your choice today.

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FILL IN THIS BANKER'S ORDER TO DONATE REGULARLY TO WAR ON WANT (YOUR BANK NAME)
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Please pay War on Want £ _____ every month/year starting on _____ 1982, until further notice.
Signature _____
Account No. _____
FOR OFFICE USE
TO National Westminster Bank, Ealing Branch, London W5 (00-07-12) A/c 18575785 quoting our reference
War on Want, Room 46, 467 Caledonian Road, London N7.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Chemical war denial by Moscow

Moscow.—The Soviet Union has given a warning that it will match any chemical weapons produced by the United States, but says its own chemical warfare troops are purely defensive (Michael Binyon writes).

Soviet scientists and a Defence Ministry expert denied accusations that the Russians had used toxins in Afghanistan or in South-East Asia. They instead accused the Americans of raining down chemical weapons during the Vietnam war and of supplying chemical bombs to the Government of El Salvador.

Major-General Anatoly Kuntsevich said the Americans were building their chemical capabilities in an attempt to obtain strategic superiority over the Soviet Union. But he asserted that the Soviet armed forces were ready with a counterweight, which would include binary weapons if necessary.

Abscam man quits Senate

Washington.—Senator Harrison Williams, who was sentenced to three years in prison for his part in the Abscam bribery case, has resigned from the Senate, sparing his colleagues from having to expel him.

If he had been expelled, he would have been the first person to have been removed from the Senate since the American Civil War (Nicholas Palford writes).

His announcement came after almost a week of drama in the Senate during which he pleaded his innocence, vowing that "God will vindicate me".

The New Jersey Democrat was one of seven congressmen involved in the Abscam scandal. The others, all members of the House of Representatives, either resigned or were defeated while seeking reelection.

Yelling from Bulow jurors

Newport, Rhode Island.—A few hours after the jury in the Claus von Bulow trial retired, a court officer reported: "There is yelling and screaming going on in the room. The 12 jurors, now in their second day of deliberations, took 89 state exhibits and 53 federal exhibits into the jury room, including the encephalogram needle that Mr von Bulow allegedly used to inject his wife, Martha, with insulin. She now lies in an irreversible coma in a New York hospital."

Genscher booted into silence

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, who was forced to abandon an election speech by 200 Communist hecklers in Achim, near Bremen.

The police, who did not intervene, said that Herr Genscher apparently saw no sense in continuing his speech amid the boos and whistles. He was campaigning for his liberal Free Democratic party, for the Lower Saxony state elections on March 21.—Reuter.

Poll coverage restricted

Jakarta.—The Indonesian Government has told foreign journalists that they will be able to cover the general elections on May 4 at province and district level, but not in the villages.

The Information Department said that in restricting coverage of the elections and the 45-day campaign period which started on Monday, it did not want to hide anything but that "people in the villages might be very busy".

Pacific islands seek nuclear test ban

Geneva.—Twenty south Pacific island territories have called for local control over nuclear tests and a ban on storage of atomic waste in their regions at a four-day environment conference in Rarotonga, capital of the Cook Islands.

CORRECTION

The report on Tuesday on a European nuclear fusion project should have said that plasma from hydrogen isotopes could reach temperatures of 100m°C not 100°C.

Begin promises £6m to loyal Arab villages

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 12

Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, had a rare meeting today with a West Bank Palestinian when he held talks with Mr Mustapha Dubeen, founder of the village leagues now being backed by Israel as a counterweight to local support for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The meeting came amid reports that Israel is considering new measures to weaken the influence of the elected Arab mayors in the occupied territories. It followed this week's outlawing of the radical National Guidance Committee and the tough, Israel warning to Jordan not to interfere in the operation of the leagues.

The talks were requested by Mr Dubeen, a former Jordanian Cabinet Minister, who later told *The Times* that the Israeli Prime Minister had pledged to provide 200m shekels (about £6m) to support development projects over the next year in the 24 Arab villages attached to his Hebron league.

Mr Dubeen, who is provided with a round-the-clock Israeli guard after repeated Palestinian death threats, referred to Mr Begin as "this excellency" during the telephone interview from his West Bank home. The call ended when the line was suddenly cut without explanation.

Before he told me he had asked for the meeting to express dissatisfaction with the financial assistance offered by the Israelis. "We did not discuss politics," he said. "I only discussed the economic and social problems of my village."

Asked whether he had discussed Jordan's threat to impose the death penalty on Palestinians who did not withdraw from the five village leagues over the next month, Mr Dubeen replied: "It was not necessary to raise the subject. Israel knows its responsibilities."

The official communiqué from Mr Begin's office said that Mr Dubeen had informed the Prime Minister

that the leagues of rural Palestinians had greater support than was generally known. He said that, despite constant threats from PLO supporters, most villages on the West Bank wanted relations of peace and understanding with Israel.

The Prime Minister responded with praise for the courage of the league leaders, one of whom was recently assassinated near Ramallah, and with an explanation of the Palestinian autonomy scheme proposed by Israel.

In recent years the only Palestinians to have met Mr Begin face to face are Mr Elias Freij, Mayor of Bethlehem, and Mr Rashad Shawa, Mayor of Gaza. Both are bitter critics of the village league members, whom they dismiss as "quintings".

Despite the references in the communiqué, Western diplomats who monitor events on the West Bank still believe that the leagues have very little support, although it is acknowledged that without elections, precise estimates are difficult. A panel of Israeli civil servants has rejected a proposal from the chief of information at the Foreign Ministry, Mr Moshe Yegar, that foreign correspondents with "hostile intentions" should be barred from entering and those already here preparing "hostile reports" should be expelled.

Details of the plan, presented to the Director General of the Prime Minister's office on February 3, were disclosed today by the Jerusalem Post. One section said: "Should these newsmen be discovered to be preparing a hostile report while in Israel, they will be asked immediately to stop their work and leave the country."

Despite rejection of the plan—drawn up in response to a critical ABC television film about Israeli policies in the occupied West Bank—the Foreign Ministry has been embarrassed that details of restrictive suggestions by its head of information should have been made public.

Mr Dubeen said that the leagues were not interested in the PLO visit, which he said was a "show".

Arabs believe, and the Israelis fear, that this private meeting will be the prelude to formal recognition of the PLO by the Israelis and the subsequent visit from Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader.

Given the private nature of the occasion, the Vatican is making no comment, but formal relations with the PLO would follow the logic of the Vatican's diplomacy, under the present Pope, which is publicly sympathetic to the Palestinian claims to a homeland.

Vatican officials recently concluded a series of talks here with Jewish leaders on closer relations. The Palestinian issue was seen to be one of the most difficult obstacles. The Israelis with naturally take seriously any move which they regard as giving greater legitimacy to the PLO.

The delicacy of the Vatican's position is shown by the fact that the meeting with the Jews brought a warning from Catholics and other Christians in Israel against a "victory for Zionism".

Mr Kaddoumi's visit, which begins on Tuesday, includes talks with members of the Italian Government on relations with the PLO. This is not new, however, because it will be his third visit and he has also met Italian ministers outside Italy.

Another victory for the rebel forces there would lend weight to Dr Treurnicht's claim that he is still supported by many in the party's rank and file as the defender of apartheid orthodoxy against the "reformist heresies" of Mr Botha and his lieutenants, and in particular against the proposal for sharing political power between whites, Coloureds (those of mixed race) and Indians.

Dr Treurnicht has announced that he is to launch a new party at a rally in Pretoria on March 20. Until now he and his 15 fellow-rebels have sat in Parliament as "Independent Nationalists". Among the names being mooted for the new party is the Christian National Party.

Mr de Klerk was shouted down when he tried to speak, and a motion of confidence in Dr Treurnicht was passed by 121 votes to 26. The party rebel was later carried from the hall shoulder-high by cheering supporters. Mr de Klerk said that the executive of the Transvaal party, of which he was made chairman last week in place of Dr Treurnicht, would meet on Monday to decide what action to take against those who voted for the motion.

There could be another humiliation in store for Mr de Klerk and the Prime Minister tonight when the party's divisional committee in the Lichtenburg constituency meets to decide the fate of its MP, Dr Ferdie Hartzenberg, the former Cabinet minister in charge of black education, who was another of those expelled from the party last week.

Gaddafi's Austrian mission



Public worship: Colonel Gaddafi of Libya leaving the mosque at Vienna's Islamic Centre, after attending prayers there yesterday. Chanting supporters mingled with security agents in the crowd.

The Colonel changes his plan

From David Blow, Vienna, March 12

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, on the third day of his visit to Austria, attended Friday prayers at the mosque in Vienna, and visited the city's Islamic Centre, instead of travelling to Linz and Salzburg, as originally planned.

In Linz he was to have toured the Voest steel plant, but the Libyan Minister for Heavy Machinery was sent instead. The change of plan was decided by Colonel Gaddafi yesterday. The reasons are not altogether clear, but probably have a great deal to do with Colonel Gaddafi's well-known impulsiveness and unpredictability.

Colonel Gaddafi's decision not to go to Salzburg saved Dr Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, one small embarrassment; Salzburg's conservative provincial Governor had claimed a prior engagement as an excuse for not attending the official banquet. The Governor's decision to absent himself reflected the strong critical attitude towards the visit of the country's conservative opposition.

When the visit was first announced on Monday, Dr Kreisky insisted that its main purpose was to promote bilateral trade. This always was improbable, and has suffered something of a setback with the Libyan announcement that they want to pay with oil.

In a speech last night at a dinner for Colonel Gaddafi, the Austrian Chancellor laid much stronger emphasis on the political aspects of the visit. Dr Kreisky told the Libyan leader that his visit could have importance for the future if it marked the beginning of a new Libyan orientation towards Europe.

He said that he did not want Libya and other African states to get the impression that Europe was willing to allow the Communist countries to monopolize relations with them. The visit had strengthened his conviction that there were many unexploited opportunities for understanding between Libya and the Western democracies, and in particular, the United States.

Answering those of his critics who have accused him of deliberately provoking the United States, Dr Kreisky emphasized Austria's total ideological friendship with "the great American democracy and its people".

At a press conference last night, Colonel Gaddafi warned that the economic war that the United States was waging against Libya would hurt others as well, and appealed to West European countries to stand by him in the face of what he called American aggression. West European countries would lose billions of dollars in trade with Libya, he said, if Libya was no longer able to sell its oil.

Khomeini regime sets up own Savak

By Edward Mortimer

A Ministry of State Security and Intelligence is to be established in Iran, under a Bill introduced into the Iranian Parliament on Thursday.

The name of the new ministry is identical to that of Savak, the secret police of the Shah's regime, except that the word "ministry" is substituted for "organization".

Iranian exiles in Europe have seized on this development as an admission of the Khomeini regime's oppressive nature and growing isolation from the people.

The Labour Party is to establish formal contacts with the National Council of Resistance, a Paris-based group of Iranian opposition parties headed by Mr Masud Rajavi, leader of the left-wing Muslim "People's Mujahidin" guerrilla organization.

A resolution passed unanimously on Tuesday by the international committee of Labour's National Executive welcomes the formation of the council and expresses the party's intention to open a dialogue "to establish the most appropriate means by which we can lend our support to the democratic and socialist forces among the Iranian people".

It also urged the Council to "consider widening its base so that all progressive forces can join it". Some left-wing parties, while sympathetic to the council, have hesitated to join it because they feel Mr Rajavi has not given sufficiently detailed guarantees about democracy and human rights, or about autonomy for minorities, such as the Kurds, if he comes to power in Iran. They are anxious not to repeat the blank cheque given to Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979.

Mr Rajavi's office in Paris has released a statement giving details of doctors and nurses executed and tortured by the Khomeini regime. It listed 14 doctors whose executions have been announced officially and said that 15 others had not been announced.

Ayatollah Khomeini has appointed a new member of Iran's Council of Guardians, Tehran Radio said yesterday (Reuters report). The radio identified the new member as Hojatolislam Muhammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani, a former Prime Minister. He replaces Ayatollah Rabani-Shirazi, killed in a car accident on Tuesday.

Next on the European agenda—dubbed TV

From George Clark, Strasbourg, March 12

A European television channel transmitted via satellites could be in operation by 1983, the European Parliament in Strasbourg was told yesterday. The same pictures, covering news, politics, entertainment, education and sport, would be received in each European country, dubbed into the local language.

Parliament approved a resolution, presented by Herr Wilhelm Hahn, (West Germany) on behalf of the Youth and Information Committee, calling on broadcasting authorities in all 10 member states to make the fifth channels of the national satellites, expected to be in orbit in 1985, available to the European programme produced under the aegis of the European Broadcasting Union.

Test transmissions from the satellite will be made on a closed circuit between May 24 and May 30 this year and the programmes, according to Herr Hahn, will be monitored for quality by a specially selected audience. The big language being the problem, experiments will be made with subtitled and dubbing. Countries taking part are the United Kingdom, Italy, The Netherlands, West Germany, Belgium and Ireland.

Herr Hahn saw the advent of a Euro-channel as a decisive factor in creating closer cohesion between the peoples of Europe. "European unification will come only if the people want it," he said. "At present, information via the mass media is controlled at national level. Most journalists do not think European because their reporting role is defined in national or regional terms. Hence the predominance of negative reporting."

After the vote Mr Alasdair Hutton, Conservative MEP for South Scotland, a former broadcaster, said the programmes would include direct broadcasts from the European Parliament.

"A European programme would be the ideal way to broaden our horizons," he said. "It would not cut local programmes. It would offer an extra choice. This is not a pipe dream. A typical evening could start with a European news magazine, followed by sport, then a French serial, a German popular music programme, a British documentary and an Italian film."

SABOTEURS PICK WRONG VINTAGE

From Our Correspondent, Paris, March 12

Protesting French growers who emptied 60,000 litres of wine from vats in the Mediterranean port of Sete yesterday chose the wrong target, according to the wine's owners.

The demonstrators, who blasted the vats open with explosives, thought the wine that poured out was Italian and that they had struck a fresh blow in their campaign against cheap imports from Italy. But the wine was actually French, a spokesman for the cooperative, which owns the vat said today.

The attack, which turned the canal running through Sete wine red, was the most spectacular recent episode in the long-running war against Italian imports by growers in the mass-production wine areas along the south-west Mediterranean coast of France.

It was clearly designed as a warning shot to the French Government, which has been given until late this month to apply a European court ruling that 340,000 hectolitres of Italian wine held at frontier posts must be released for distribution.

Although no group has claimed responsibility for yesterday's attack, the protesters were well organized and showed their awareness of the value of publicity by taking with them a cameraman from a local television station.

Further protests are being discussed for the weeks ahead, leading up to a mass rally on March 31. M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, today condemned the attack.

What's got into The Sunday Times?

If it wasn't for the name on the front cover of tomorrow's edition of our Colour Magazine, you could be forgiven for thinking it was something else.

Especially when you find another front cover two-thirds of the way through. "Look"—our new-style 'magazine within a magazine', with features on beauty food, fashion and gardening—leads tomorrow with a

fascinating insight into the behind-the-scenes world of Yves St Laurent.

While the main Magazine carries in-depth features on the socialist who lives like an Emperor, some non-starters in the Space Race, and some extraordinary Kenyan elephants that actually...well, the new-look Sunday Times Magazine is out tomorrow.

Why don't you see it for yourself?

The new-look Sunday Times Magazine...with the new 'Look' Magazine inside.

Traveller's Tales: in the first of an occasional series, Ted Simon revisits Brazil

Cockroaches and 10 dollars a day

Emily Macey, Jacky Steen, Sam McMahon, Nora Funderburk and the rest of the crowd got on the same plane with me at Miami. They were under the general guidance of George Stegner, a man of distinction in his loose yet immaculate seersucker jacket and cotton pants. He had obviously done this kind of thing many times and seemed even to enjoy it.

There was a mix-up on the seating, and the Varig steward had to shuffle some Brazilian passengers about, because George wasn't going to let his party fray at the edges, not even on the plane. He flashed his big smile at them. "OK? OK! Everything's OK." Then the plane took off to the Amazon.

I watched them, gleaming their names from their lapel badges, with confusion and misgivings. I had already flown nine hours from London (Laker £95) and waited more at the airport for another five hours would arrive at Manaus (Varig £265). A long time to be flying, but a ridiculously short time to be transported from London in winter to the heart of the equatorial rain-forest where I had never been before.

I was last in Brazil eight years ago, when I arrived at one of the northern ports on a grimy Greek freighter from Mocimboa, having already ridden the length of Africa on a motorcycle. I should have been perfectly prepared for any experience, yet the shock of culture and climate so unbalanced me that I got myself locked away for a fortnight as a potential threat to the regime. What could I expect this time?

My confusion was caused by my companions at board. What was a seasoned and intrepid traveller like myself doing in a semi-remote area? They looked as though they might never have left Greenville, Kentucky, since their respective honeymoons at Niagara. Were we really going to the same place, across the same threshold? In a sense, I knew we weren't. They were destined, I supposed, to be transported through the 95 per cent humidity in air-conditioned coaches to an air-conditioned hotel. They would visit the opera house and make a cautious boat trip to the far shore of the Amazon (actually not the Amazon at all, but the Rio Negro) to a carefully chosen settlement where they would be exposed to Indian "crafts" and festooned with beads and floral tributes.

Feeling vaguely uncomfortable, they would absorb as much of all this as they could through their cameras before flying on to Rio and eventually Greenville, where they would have a really great time showing slides, sweating, and drink too much, and feel stupid every time I opened my mouth and... the problem was I really couldn't remember any more what it



John Cameron

was like in that other world where most of the human race still proliferates. Even reading my own notes, written years before, failed to restore the smells and tastes and touches of what we are pleased to call Third World poverty. I read how, after 13 months in Latin America, I had gone to a Los Angeles supermarket and felt physically sick at the obscene glut of idiotic, wasteful and unnecessary goods, but I could not honestly relive that feeling any more, nor the emotion that prompted it.

And although I had experienced great pleasures and rewards "out there", when I tried to recall them now they seemed trite and banal. But I did know for certain that I had lost something extremely precious and important to my life, and my main purpose in flying out here was to recover it.

The plane landed at three in the morning. Emily, Sam, Nora, George and the rest were quickly swept away on their pre-ordained course. I decided to spend the rest of the night sitting at the airport, until my arteries stopped flaring and my mind caught up with my body. In any case, the kind of hotel I meant to patronize would not be functioning too well at that hour.

The airport soon emptied, leaving me alone under a huge concrete canopy open to the warm night air. Occasionally a husky female voice breathed flight information down on me from concealed speakers with startling fidelity and intimacy

of a big-screen love affair. I dozed, then read through the golden pages of the *South American Handbook* (Britain's finest contribution to travel literature). There I found hotels ranging from £1 to £15 a night, and chose one, warmly recommended for its renovations and new management, at £2.50, thinking that my jet lag deserved some consideration. At nine I took the bus into Manaus.

And then it began. At the first bend in the road my luggage flew across the bus as we leaned over on two wheels. I had forgotten about the buses. The sweet smell of corruption (the material kind) overwhelmed me. The soft wet air enveloped me. I really had forgotten everything.

As I trudged from the bus station, streaming sweat, my sense of order and purpose collapsed in the general mess of rot and rubble and riotous rubbish that fills all the spaces where human traffic is insufficient to grind it down or push it aside.

I had forgotten the stench and roar and the aggression of the traffic, and the riotous variety of human shapes and conditions, from the paralytically drunk or diseased Indian stumbling his last ragged hours in the gutter to the exquisitely pressed and starched clothes and impassive faces of the well-to-do professional men picking out a by radar the perfect route for their impeccable shoes through the minefield of potholes and puddles that constitutes an average pavement.

Dragging my two bags, which already seemed much heavier than I had intended, I staggered up a hill to the Hotel Aurora. Just how much I had forgotten came home to me there. Beneath an impressively modern sign rising the full three stories of the building, the hotel entrance was like the door to a broom cupboard.

I was shown a room so utterly mean and miserable that I almost despaired; an eight foot square box of painted cement with no external window, only a row of louvre panes plump with dust looking on to the corridor, narrow mattress torn at one end, covered only with sheets too short and thin enough to see through, walls and ceiling impregnated with grime; a fan leaning precariously off the wall over the bed, held by a piece of fraying string; and a chandelier hanging from the ceiling, its tube attached none too convincingly to the ceiling which left the corners of the room in ominous gloom. The scent was mildew.

That afternoon I explored a few other hotels mentioned in the handbook. They were undeniably grubbier. The acid test, that night, was the fat brown cockroach on my pillow when I switched on the light. It was large — two inches long at least — and probably quite elderly, since it was very slow to lurk out of sight. I found it nauseating and had some difficulty forcing myself to lie down, yet at the same time I knew that only a few years ago I would scarcely have noticed

the beast; indeed I used to defend cockroaches against their loathsome reputation, for I could never discover the harm they did.

The purpose of this catalogue of woes is not to solicit pity but to demonstrate how readily tolerance is distorted by habit. Now as I write, 48 hours later, I find my room quite spacious. The hotel seems clean and friendly. I appreciate the fan in my room for its fan, and silent three-speed action, because I now recall vividly the rusty, wheezing motors I knew at other times. I admire especially the tiled and polished floors, more level and hygienic than any other surfaces I have seen in Manaus so far. The cockroach has not returned but if it did I doubt that it would trouble me.

The life in the streets is immensely invigorating. People never open their mouths without smiling or laughing, and they show themselves, whatever their colour or circumstance, to be happier than any comparable swath of humanity off the streets of London or New York. I have already recovered one of the great pleasures of life, forgotten for some time: the release from ever wanting to have something or do something. The habit of compulsive action and compensatory consumption (which is like the air most of us breathe) takes years to discard, but because I lost it once before it is easier to throw off now.

I still feel a little sticky, and like everyone here we can afford it I probably drink too much beer. But I have crossed the line, and what it comes down to is feeling better on 10 dollars a day than Emily, Sam and Nora do on 50. On the way to my room, reports on my descent into the gutters of Latin America. These subjective findings, which form the basis of a sort of social relativity theory, seem far more important to me than meticulous observations of flora and fauna. The enforced change of habits and customs is what makes travel worthwhile, and gives the writer, and I hope the reader, a glimpse of where we stand in the general throng of humanity and a chance to change things and mark down disadvantages.

I would have liked to find George Stegner's group again and ask them what they had made of it all, but I could not trace them at any of the luxury hotels in Manaus. Which leaves me with a recurring and troubling fantasy: that they, Nora Funderburk and company, are even now crewing a dug-out canoe up the Amazon towards Colombia through a hail of poison darts, with dependable George at the prow, three dead snails on his cheek and a shotgun across his knee. If such things were possible I would have a lot of explaining to do.

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Geoffrey Smith

An unmilitant tendency not to lean on Mr Wall

Why has the official Labour response to Mr Pat Wall been so muted? He said in a speech last week that a Marxist Labour government would have to abolish the monarchy and the House of Lords, and sack the generals, admirals and air marshals, the senior civil servants and police chiefs, and in particular, the judges. Not quite what one would expect to read in the next Labour manifesto.

So on Monday the organization sub-committee of the National Executive Committee decided to endorse Mr Wall's position as prospective parliamentary candidate for Bradford North, a role to which he has been elected in preference to the sitting right-wing MP, Mr Ben Ford, by the local constituency party or rather by its general management committee — but in which he has not yet been confirmed by the NEC.

The organization sub-committee recommended that the local selection procedure should be conducted again. But it took this decision not because of Mr Wall's speech but because the matter had already been referred back to it by the NEC on account of technical irregularities in the first selection.

There is no confidence, however, in the mainstream of the party — ranging from the right to the traditional left — that Mr Wall will now be unseated by the party in Bradford. It will be the same general management committee that takes the decision. Indeed, if the NEC later this month simply acts on the recommendation and just reappoints the Bradford constituency to go through its paces again it may even strengthen Mr Wall's position.

If he is confirmed as the constituency party's choice in a selection procedure with no irregularities this time, would it not be all the harder later to reject him on account of the speech? Might the NEC not be implying that he would be acceptable so long as the local selection procedure is regular?

Nor has the parliamentary leadership been as forthright as it might have been. Mr Foot has indeed reaffirmed the party's attachment to the parliamentary democracy. But at the meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party on Thursday evening Mr Jeffrey Rooker, a member of the traditional left, complained that this was not enough. The Shadow Cabinet should have declared roundly that the Labour Party supports the constitutional monarchy and that a Labour government would not institute any constitutional changes through the process of enabling legislation which would not afford an adequate opportunity for parliamentary scrutiny.

What then happened? Why should the NEC not follow the line of Mr Hattersley, who said on television on Sunday that Mr Wall was not a legitimate candidate for the Labour Party to endorse? Or of Mr Shore, who has said that it was clearly folly for the NEC to endorse any new candidates from the Militant Tendency while it was itself under inquiry? Does the leadership not appreciate the extent to which people like Mr Wall undermine the credibility of the party in the eyes of the electorate? Or does it hope that all the fuss will just blow over?

The answer is that a deliberate waiting game is being played. The idea is to postpone the main battle on Mr Wall and other Militants until after the report has been received from the official party inquiry into the



Pat Wall: his local party has been told to go through the selection procedure again — but there is no confidence in the mainstream of the party that he will be unseated.

Militant Tendency, and good care will be taken to see that this report is not available until after the local elections in May.

There is a great deal of concern not to rock the boat more than is absolutely necessary before then. But once those elections are over it would be a good moment for the NEC to act upon the basis of a report concluding that the Tendency was infringing Clause Two of the Labour constitution by acting in effect as a party within the party and possibly that there had also been financial irregularities affecting Militant.

That is the theory. But its application in practice will depend on a number of assumptions proving correct. The first of these is that the report itself will be forthright in condemning Militant. Confidence is now growing within the party that it will be. But the critical question then will be what the NEC will do about it. Will Mr Foot

provide a strong lead? And is the balance of power on the NEC still such as to give him the controlling power when he cares to exercise it?

The record of this year's NEC has been disappointing up to now. At the end of the Brighton conference in October there was a good deal of confidence on the right and in the centre of the party that the balance on the new NEC had been decisively shifted away from the left on the critical issues. This was based on the return of Mr Foot would throw his weight against the left for the sake of order and stability, and that the traditional or moderate left would go with him on the major questions.

It has worked like that only occasionally, such as in the rejection of Mr Peter Tatchell as the candidate for Bermondsey. More often Mr Foot has preferred to pursue the holy grail of party unity. This has meant bestowing tolerance on those who are not prepared to return the favour. Partly because of his recollection of his own days as a party rebel, he has frequently expressed his abhorrence of witch hunts. His most endearing qualities as a man have been the very ones which have undermined his performance as leader in these harsh conditions.

Some on the right put their trust in his weakness. They believe he is a man who can be leaned upon. The trouble is that a man who can be leaned upon from one direction can also be leaned upon from another. Might Mr Foot be persuaded that if he did anything more terrible to the Militant Tendency than wring his hands he would thereby be sacrificing the spirit of Bishop's Stortford?

The uncomfortable truth is that it would be impossible for him or for any other leader to keep everybody in the party happy and to give the electorate the assurance it will want that Labour is not becoming increasingly in thrall to the hard left.

The reason for the growing confidence in the party mainstream — including a number of the traditional left — that the NEC will take action against Militant is that it is believed that if he did anything more terrible to the Militant Tendency than wring his hands he would thereby be sacrificing the spirit of Bishop's Stortford?

To condemn Militant is one thing: to find the means of taking effective action against all those who are of the Tendency will be more difficult. But the whole strategy of the waiting game depends on the assumption that delay does not matter because, when the moment comes to act, it will be possible to do the job thoroughly.

On the first weekend of the 1982 Bradford tourist season, Ian Bradley reports on how visitors are being lured to the city of derelict warehouses and disused railway cuttings.

Bradford, gateway to the past

As factories and workshops go on short time or close, railway sidings rust and shops are boarded up, the industrial parts of the town come more and more to resemble a derelict urban wasteland, the symbols of their former strength and prosperity standing like tombstones of a lost civilization.

Seen from another point of view these ruins provide enormous potential museum of Britain's industrial past. With industrial archaeology and railway mania among the fastest growing national pastimes, can tourists not be lured to the dark, squalid mills and derelict sidings of northern towns where once the only thought was of escape to the warm south?

This idea of reversing the normal flow of tourist traffic within Britain is being taken up by a number of northern industrial cities. None has seized it with quite such enthusiasm as the metropolitan district of Bradford which is building a successful tourist industry on the basis of its mills, old railway lines and other relics of the days when it was Worstedsopolis, the woollen textile capital of the world.

Bradford suffers from what the advertising men would call a severe image problem when it comes to promoting its charms as a tourist resort. It has the unenviable distinction for example, of having the least visited cathedral in the British Isles.

In fact the business of promoting tourism has been taken very seriously by the city fathers. It is undertaken by the council's economic development unit (whose motto is "the myth breakers") which two years ago appointed a full-time tourism officer, Maria Glor. Last year she received more than 8,000 inquiries about the weekend breaks which are the most successful features

of Bradford's tourist programme.

This weekend sees the start of the 1982 season and the first of a series of weekends based on West Yorkshire's extensive railway network. A group of enthusiasts will be exploring the delights of the Middleton colliery railway, the first in the world to have a steam powered locomotive (in 1812), which is now run by enthusiasts to carry scrap metal from the main line to local firms as well as for passenger trips.

Also included in the weekend tour are visits to two of the country's best known preserved railways, the North Valley between Keighley and Oxenhope, and the Yorkshire Dales, and to the National Railway Museum in York.

The railway weekends will be alternating with weekends exploring Bradford's industrial heritage. They proved particularly popular last year, the highlight being a visit to Saltaire, the model village created by the great Victorian industrialist and philanthropist, Sir Titus Salt, to house the workers in his enormous worsted mill which still dominates the Aire valley. There is also a tour of Bradford's wool warehouses,



Steaming ahead on the Worth Valley line

now gradually being converted to wine bars and casinos.

The great majority of those who went on the industrial heritage weekends last year were from the south. More than 10 per cent have rebooked for one of this year's weekends. It is not difficult to see the attraction. Going round Salt's enormous mill, which is still working, is to step back into conditions which most southerners only know about from books and television programmes about the Industrial Revolution.

The noise of the spinning and weaving machines is deafening, the stench of the dyeing vats overpowering. The machinery is still essentially the same as that found in Bradford's industrial museum and much of it is operated, as it always has been, by women.

It would be hard to find a more powerful expression of the two nations theme than the vision of well-heeled pen pushers from the north breaking their coming up north to watch the manual working classes and inspect the monuments to their toil. Yet Bradfordians show no sense of envy or discomfiture about the new status as quaint relics of a vanishing industrial civilization. Rather they display to their visitors an intense pride in their past and present achievements and regale them with the straightforward, practical philosophizing which has always been part of the Yorkshire character.

If they are to go the way of the Greeks and Portuguese, they will do so with dignity, with a proper Pennine pride, and with a good deal of honest West Riding grit.

Ian Bradley

Sitting under a Matisse in his office at Gracie Mansion, Mayor Koch looks not unlike the odalisque in the painting, Edward Irving Koch, the 61 lin Jewish Mayor of New York, tells a favourite story. "I was in a pensioners' home in the Bronx and I was addressing nearly 200 elderly men and women. I said, 'I know crime is on your mind and I want to tell you that a judge was murdered this week... and do you know what he did, ladies and gentlemen? He called a press conference and said to reporters, "The mugging of me will in no way affect my judgment and decisions in matters of this kind." At which point one of those old grandmas you always get at the back of the hall stood up and said — "then mug him again!"

That story always gets a few laughs and "Hizoner" the Mayor is fond of jokes, well satisfied that he is known, variously, as "Mayor Culpa", "Mayatollah" and "New York's maddest" and regularly refers to his critics as "dummies" and once called Billy Carter a "whacko".

His answers to reporters' questions frequently run only to one word: "baloney" or "bullshit". Koch is well aware of the impact of such slogans and he appreciates the value, in television-dominated milieu, of the quick quip, the witty aside that makes an ideal 30-second television slot. Many of the best quotes about him are his own, such as "People like me because I shoot from the hip".

That popularity has continued long enough for it to be now considered an interesting phenomenon because it means that although Koch often seems to shoot his mouth off casually he is nevertheless expressing what a good many Americans feel inside. The simple one-liners are not as simple as they sound and are in fact this politician's way of communicating direct with the public without the intervening and possibly distorting medium of a reporter or television interviewer.

As recently as last year he said that his row at the Walling Wall in Jerusalem was "binding". More recently he was re-elected

Why Mayor Koch should run and run

Mayor of New York having been endorsed by both Democratic and Republican parties. The second is more crucial fact.

Koch's own political views are changing and what we are seeing is a new political philosophy being worked out, and in public. He is, for the most part, and like many people a bundle of moods and views that were once contradictory (like being a liberal and being for capital punishment) but now no longer appear so. He is no ideologue, has an abhorrence of them, and seems to be in the way of the SDP in Britain, that for the time being people do not want ideologies of any kind thrust at them.

He knows that if he can tap the mood of the state, he has undoubtedly tapped the mood of the city, there will be no stopping him. Nobody has mentioned the White House yet — but Koch himself, when announcing that he would run for Governor last week, refused to rule out higher office such as the Vice-Presidency (and who, deep down, wants that when he can have the other?)

Important as it is to understand his style, and what it means, it would mean nothing without some achievements, however controversial. So what are they?

When Koch took over New York, on January 1, 1978 the city was virtually bankrupt and its credit rating was so low that it was unable to raise money for its sewerage system. By the end of 1979, an annual deficit of 750,000 and 2,000,000 dollars. During the previous years, middle-class taxpayers had flown the city in droves and taken 600,000 jobs with them, more than the population of Buffalo, the state's second largest city. Nineteen major companies, like Singer and American Airlines, had gone. The city's securities could not be sold to raise money since investment analysts had branded it officially as "junk bonds".

Within three weeks of taking office Mayor Koch presented to the Treasury in Washington a fiscal recovery plan which envisaged balancing the budget by "fiscal surgery", i.e. the year beginning July 1, 1982. President Carter was impressed, granted the



Mayor Koch: a man of the people

co-operation Koch sought and gave New York the 2,000,000 dollar loan guarantees needed to get the city going again.

By last year, 12 months ahead of schedule, New York's books were indeed balanced, and with a surplus of 200m dollars. Koch did this by limiting the increase in city spending to less than 4 per cent a year, compared with 11 per cent by the Federal government, and by eliminating thousands of city jobs. He did it too by encouraging blacks and Hispanics to come back to New York through tax cuts and an increase in the budget of the Office for Economic Development, which looks after services to industry.

As a result, 110,000 new jobs have been created in the city in the past 18 months, spare capacity has declined from 15 per cent in 1976 to 3 per cent now, retail sales have surged by 16 per cent and last year the city security bonds regained their credit rating as a good investment.

brought Koch some vociferous critics. The 75,000 city jobs saved, for instance, have involved cutting the police force by a massive 20 per cent, 19,000 teachers have gone, along with 2,000 of the city's 2,500 road sweepers. Consequently, many of the city services have, in the words of a Citybank economist, "been brought to the point of breakdown".

Crime worries almost everyone. Robberies are at an all-time high, although the Mayor is never slow to point out that New York is only "only" ninth nationally in crime statistics, and is not even No. 1 in rape and murder. The subway system (not directly the Mayor's responsibility) is a disgrace — old, inefficient and unsafe. This has provoked a vicious circle: numbers riding the subway are decreasing and this has forced the system into an annual deficit in excess of 100,000 dollars. The tunnel under Park Avenue has just been declared in danger of collapse by some engineers and the city water system leaks 100 million gallons of water every day.

In this year's budget, Koch has decided that the city can afford 1,000 more policemen, 1,000 more teachers and 400 more school guards. Fine, say his critics but they see this only as proof of their argument. Koch got rid of the policemen and teachers in the first place — and why do the schools need those guards?

There is a strong faction which contends that Koch's policies have for the most part benefitted the white middle-class in the city, at the expense of blacks and Hispanics. The improvement in conditions for businesses has helped whites, the noticeable deterioration in services has adversely affected minorities.

It is fair to say that Koch is a shade ambivalent about this. On the one hand he points out that he has appointed a higher proportion of blacks to top administrative jobs than any of the three mayors who preceded him. On the other hand, the Hispanics especially allege he is against affirmative action programmes, so much so that he cannot go into some areas

without bodyguards.

The Mayor, for his part, does not deny he is a friend to the middle class. He wants the middle-class to know they have a friend in city hall, that when people mocked them in the Sixties, they were wrong. The middle-class was right. Honesty, Industriousness, all of it.

If Koch deserves a lot of the credit for making New York a richer, but dirtier, noisier, less safe city, he is also the first to acknowledge the luck, both good and bad, which he has been saddled with. For example, inflation, sensitive sales, income and business taxes have gone up 50 per cent in his term, adding 1,000m dollars annually to the city coffers.

On the other hand, New York has a financial burden which Koch thinks is wrong. Federal regulations insist that the city processes waste sludge and must not dump it at sea, which Koch thinks is just as safe and would save 35m dollars a year. The Medicaid system is another New York is the only city to contribute 25 per cent of its Budget itself — most other places pay less than 10 per cent. (but changes are afoot there).

These are perhaps the usual things a politician has to juggle with, and Koch's record, when you examine it, would probably not set him apart from any other successful politician. That is why we must turn back to his style.

In many ways he is a real man of the people. No one would call him good-looking or glamorous — he waits in the queue at cinemas, does not expect any special treatment.

Koch calls himself a "liberal with sanity". Others say he is now a neo-conservative or a crypto-Republican. The best description is probably Irving Kristol's, who said by reality a Democrat "mugged by reality".

As Koch knows only too well, there's a lot of mugging about. In an era of diminishing expectations, Mayor Koch has correctly calculated that in political reality is a better weapon than optimism.

Peter Watson



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

CARE FOR THE COURTESIES

When a previous Pope — it was Pius IX in 1850 — proposed, not to visit his flock in England, but merely to organize them in dioceses it was the Prime Minister, no less, who led the counter-attack against papal aggression. Writing to his friend the Bishop of Durham, Lord John Russell denounced the move as insolent and insidious, declared his indignation to be greater even than his alarm, and declared even his alarm at the pretensions of a foreign sovereign to be less than his alarm at the conduct of the Tractarians, unworthy sons of the Church of England within her own gates. (That at any rate is John Morley's summary of its contents.) The letter was published in the newspapers on the day it was dated, which was November 4. Next day's *Guy Fawkes* bonfires burned with an extra sparkle.

Things have moved on a bit since then, but Liverpool can still throw up a flicker of those fires. "No Popery" is now largely absent from polite society, has refuge still in a few fundamentalist, Calvinistic, isolated and impopular congregations, and Liverpool (which is one of the two cities of Great Britain to have been colonized by the religious sociology of Belfast) can muster, or provide, a venue for a posse of zealots to shout obscene abuse at the Archbishop of Canterbury preaching and at prayer in the parish church, because he extends a hand of welcome to Pope John Paul II. It was an outrage borne with dignity by Dr Runcie, but possibly a salutary reminder, also, that all is not so smooth in Christian

England as a ride in the ecumenical limousine.

The Pope was invited to England, with an extension to Scotland, by his own bishops here; and the purpose of the visit is stated to be pastoral. He will, for half a day, at Canterbury, also be the guest of the Church of England, though the proceedings are planned to embrace all the other considerable Christian churches in the land. It is not a "state" visit. The Pope does not make them. The fact that he is head of the Vatican state is least of his dignities. But this Pope's journeys have assumed some of the characteristics of a royal progress. It is at this point that various misgivings appear.

One is that, if the expectation is entertained of a multitudinous triumph of the sort achieved elsewhere, the Pope's party may be disappointed. The English and Scots are not famously demonstrative, except at football and Roman Catholics are not all that thick on the ground; and while the Pope is much admired he is also a controversial figure, some of whose moral admonitions provoke contradiction outside and even inside his communion.

Another aspect of the visit that more directly concerns the reformed churches in Britain is that of protocol and symbolism. Churchmanship about this island is of many colours. All bar the orange tinge mean to deal courteously with the papal visit. Most have uttered representative words of welcome of varying warmth. A few look forward to a measurable quickening of

the pace of church unity. But all are sensitive to the formalities, and the possibility that they may be placed in positions of unwarranted deference.

Two examples: at Canterbury there was to have been a formal gathering at which the Pope would address assembled representatives of the reformed churches. That has tactfully been converted into a circulatory session in which they will mingle on terms of equality. In Scotland the Pope wishes to meet the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland but the only time his tour operators could at first find was breakfast time, although it had been assumed that the meeting would take place at a more commodious time of day. Trivia, perhaps. But when long-controverted questions of status and subordination arise these trivia count. There is a wish to be welcoming, an acknowledgment that much of a doctrinal nature that excited hostility has now been adjusted between Anglicanism or Protestantism and Rome. But still care is taken lest anyone be compromised by the symbolism of the occasion.

This will call for much sensitivity on the part of those who steer the Pope through his engagements. There is no reason to doubt that the sensitivity will be attempted, only whether it will be achieved. As for the advancement of church unity, observance of these nuances implies that the process is seen, not as one of absorption, but as mutual recognition more fully and more freely granted.

VOTING THE STRASBOURG WAY

How to elect the members of the European Parliament, for which the second direct elections are to be held in 1984, has come to the fore again. Last time, in 1979, it was agreed that each country could choose its own system, so Britain (but not Northern Ireland) kept its traditional method of first-past-the-post in the new European constituencies. But this time the intention is to have the same electoral system in each of the ten member countries of the Community. The first steps in this direction have now been taken by the Parliament itself, which voted this week in favour of a regional list system, a form of proportional representation widely used on the Continent. British MEPs, both Conservative and Labour, were almost alone in voting against the resolution.

Should Britain hold out against its own individual system, whether it be first-past-the-post or the additional member system, another form of proportional representation which was proposed by the Conservatives in Strasbourg this week? It has the opportunity to do so, because the Strasbourg vote is only advisory, and the matter will now come before the Council of Ministers, where any decision has to be unanimous. And after that the Council's decision has to be approved by national parliaments.

At a time when Britain's European credentials are being called in question, this would hardly seem to be an issue on which to have another row with our partners. It is not as if the results of the 1979 elections revealed some superior brand of democracy. On the contrary, the first-past-the-post system when applied to the large European constituencies produced a very unbalanced result, with over-representation of the Conservatives, under-representation of Labour, and no Liberals at all. So the case for some form of proportional representation at the European level is strong, particularly since it has already been used in Northern Ireland.

There are, of course, objections to the regional list system. It is a debating advantage that the subsidy is from the EEC and therefore easily represented as a play by the agricultural lobby to unload more milk (a shameful and unjust imposition). The campaign has all the marks of having high mileage potential. Only one thing jars. Only the other day, it seems, there was another campaign which ran and ran and gave much innocent pleasure to all who took part. It was against the decision of Mrs Thatcher, then Minister of Education, to stop schools giving free milk to children between seven and eleven. The opposition, which had abolished the same concession for children over 11 only a little earlier, proclaimed that this was the wickedest attack on childhood since Mr Bumble. The slogan "Thatcher the Milk Snatcher" raised the future Lord Lady to national prominence: it can be said to have been the making of her politically. But where in the wheel turn full circle, and Mrs Thatcher, bearing cholesterol from Brussels, be made into a new bogey, the "Milk Lady"?

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Belief in the unhealthiness of milk products is American in origin, and American fads often run well over here. There is some statistical evidence of risk, though in relation to the pupil's daily third of a pint (one-third to the floor, one-ninth down the jumper and one-ninth down the throat) it must be as remote as that associated with eating mint humbugs, or walking to school. But it is an established principle that in these matters danger is dangerous, and that no-one who quibbles over degree can claim to be a lover of children. The subsidy is expected to run to £11m this year. The placards and lapel badges practically write themselves: "Is £11m the price of our children's health?" and "Teacher leave that child alone. We don't want cholesterol".

It is all the fault of the EEC. After months of haggling at the great milking-parlour in Brussels, representatives of the cattle of ten countries, agreed in October to make a subsidy available from Community funds to schools supplying cheap milk to their pupils. Gloucestershire education committee is shortly to consider whether to take advantage of this provision, which is warmly

practiced by our European partners. Opinion polls in the United Kingdom have repeatedly shown overwhelming support for a fairer electoral system. The case for such a system is even stronger where, as in the European Community, there is no question of a government being formed. May I appeal to the British Government, through your

columns, not to thwart the democratic will of the European Parliament and of the British people by trying to reverse this recommendation when it goes to the Council of Ministers for decision.

Yours faithfully,
HARLECH,
House of Lords,
March 11.

From Lord Harlech,
Sir, The European Parliament has now voted for a common system of elections in all member countries by proportional representation. PR will ensure fair representation in the European Parliament of all major political opinions in the United Kingdom and bring us into line with the

Support for PR

From Lord Harlech,
Sir, The European Parliament has now voted for a common system of elections in all member countries by proportional representation. PR will ensure fair representation in the European Parliament of all major political opinions in the United Kingdom and bring us into line with the

practice of our European partners. Opinion polls in the United Kingdom have repeatedly shown overwhelming support for a fairer electoral system. The case for such a system is even stronger where, as in the European Community, there is no question of a government being formed. May I appeal to the British Government, through your

columns, not to thwart the democratic will of the European Parliament and of the British people by trying to reverse this recommendation when it goes to the Council of Ministers for decision.

Press initiative in context of nuclear proliferation

From The Reverend Dr Kenneth Greet
Sir, Some months ago (October 21, 1981) you published a letter in which I argued that clear-cut distinctions between the multilateral and unilateral approaches to disarmament overlooked the fact that progress in the former depends on willingness to consider initiatives of the latter sort. I concluded with an appeal to President Reagan and President Brezhnev to go together to the UN Special Session on Disarmament. I said that if they jointly put forward there some agreed plans this would be widely acknowledged as evidence of real statesmanship.

Two things have happened since then. I received telephone calls from both the American and Soviet Embassies asking me to receive their First Secretaries to discuss the matter. They came on separate occasions and gave me a full and courteous exposition of the foreign policies of their governments. The speeches they made were altogether very different from the assertions of the desire for peace, both, with a sincerity that I found no cause to question, argued the regrettable necessity for massive arms expenditure to counter the real threat from the other side. It was altogether a distressing demonstration of the extent to which we become the victims and prisoners of our own propaganda.

My visitors left me with polite acknowledgements of the eminent wisdom of my proposal about the UN Special Session. But now a second thing has happened. We learn that President Reagan will at that very time be stealing the limelight in Europe when he attends the Council of NATO and that he expects to address the members of the British Parliament. I hope that large numbers of people will feel it right to persuade him that he would be better employed elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH G. GREET,
Secretary of the Conference,
The Methodist Church,
Conference Office,
Central Buildings,
Westminster, SW1
March 11.

From Mrs Elizabeth Young,
Sir, There is one question that should be asked about Trident that was mentioned neither by you in your letter, "Trident's fourth dimension", nor by David Greenwood in his article, "A taxpayer's guide to Trident's true cost" (March 8).

It is this: given that the unavoidable limits to the acquisition of more and more expensive weapons are now visible to most governments (including the Soviet and the American as well as the British); given that the US Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (SALT) should be beginning fairly soon; and given that no one has yet come up with a more plausible disarmament process than verified reductions to minimum deterrent level, we need to think about how Trident would make out for us in the context of SALT.

The trouble is that five Trident

boats, be they C4 or D5, cannot be reduced to anything less, given in turn that five boats is the smallest number that makes strategic sense, and that the number of warheads in a missile, could not be verified other than over-intrusively.

Our present Polaris force would only enter the reduction lists fairly far on in a strategic arms reduction process; but a British Trident D5 force would become important in the overall equation considerably earlier, what then?

The trouble is that Tridents, whether C4 or D5, are, as units, too big.

This is probably bad for the Americans too, who no doubt are buying Trident because it is there — just as we seem to be doing.

But should not the British Government be looking rather further ahead than the shelf in front of it?

Yours etc,
ELIZABETH YOUNG,
100 Bayswater Road, W2,
March 11.

From Mr Patrick Duffy, MP for Sheffield, Attercliffe (Labour)
Sir, In an otherwise sympathetic assessment of the case for Trident you call on the Prime Minister in your leader of March 8 "to issue a full defence summary... at the earliest opportunity and insist that the costs be 'clearly spelled out'". What you do not mention is that the United Kingdom is a member of NATO and, therefore, you fail to insist that the case for Trident also be made against the background of overall Alliance strategy and objectives.

Reconsideration of our blood-chilling statement (March 8): "it is a very serious prospect to take the risk that at some future date we might be faced with the extinction of these islands... when in return we might only be able to threaten a few cities".

This is the suicidal criminality of the "balance of terror" rationalized to pave the way for the latest monstrosity, Trident. A few short years ago "unrestricted submarine warfare" was recognized by every major Power, including our own, as a war crime. Not because those ancient boats might destroy whole cities, but because it was thought criminal to sink unarmed merchant ships and leave the crew to drown. What innocence.

According to you now have cause for shame when our latest submarines can only obliterate "a few cities". We are indeed become brutes in pin-striped suits.

Survival, of our civilization requires outright rejection of nuclear terrorism in all its lurid forms and an assertion that continued life on earth depends on a practical application of genuine mutual respect. The Soviet Union is a struggling, confused culture, clinging to outdated dogma. Just like ours.

Sincerely,
GEORGE DELF,
The Old Vicarage,
Yorford, Suffolk.

important therapeutic and training activities because of alleged security risks which have more to do with prejudice than security.

Governors and other senior staff often have so frequently that they have no opportunity to influence even if they want the rehabilitation programme within the prison. There is a feeling abroad that the most important aspect of management expected by London is the containment of discontent by prisoners and staff alike. To that end, "accommodation" with some would say appeasement of — pressure groups is essential.

The majority of short and medium-stay prisoners are inadequate in terms of personality, character, personal attributes and all other attributes required for modern life. Their containment in unsuitable buildings tends to attract a number of staff who are either authoritarian personalities or social dogooders. Either type largely aggravates the problems and eventually fail foul of the system.

As in all good management requirements, the remedy must come from the top. The top does not lead as it should. The physical conditions cannot be changed for a long time, but the use of the declining sums of money, in real terms, could be greatly improved and a new sense of purpose and policy given to the service. It would serve the uniformed staff just as much as the prisoners.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ALAN RICHMOND,
Jupans,
9 Springfield Drive,
Wedmore, Somerset.

surface fleet strike at the other end of the flexible response spectrum.

3. That consequently John Nott's selection of weapon systems will reflect a narrowing of the options, such as increasing reliance on the hunter-killer submarines and maritime patrol aircraft, for example, rather than a balanced and interdependent force, including escort vessels and other surface units.

4. That such a development in conventional weaponry may have the effect of lowering the nuclear threshold as a dire consequence of a high-risk strategy in the north Atlantic in relation to reinforcement and supply.

This explains why there is hardly any support for Trident among our Allies. Where it exists in the United States it is more than matched by concern about the future size and shape of the Royal Navy's surface fleet.

Clearly, a greater precision in Alliance priorities is required if we are to provide for the most efficient use of our increasingly scarce resources. However, so long as the Prime Minister and Defence Secretary insist on maintaining the appearance of an all-round contribution by the United Kingdom to the Alliance, and uncontrovertedly pursue what will remain unconvincing within the Alliance and its defence policy will remain confused.

Yours etc,
PATRICK DUFFY,
House of Commons,
March 9.

From Mr George Delf
Sir, Nothing could better illustrate the accelerating degeneration of our civilization than your blood-chilling statement (March 8): "it is a very serious prospect to take the risk that at some future date we might be faced with the extinction of these islands... when in return we might only be able to threaten a few cities".

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Remedies for unemployment

From Lord Taylor
Sir, It is seldom that I find myself in agreement with Lord Kaldor. But his letter (March 9) expresses precisely a fundamental truth. If unemployment is to be defeated by reflection, the unavoidable price to be paid is wage and salary control and price and rent control, with all the political struggling and bureaucracy which these involve. Otherwise the remedy is purely transient and the end result for the patient is worse than his first state.

Those who advocate "reflation" as a cure for unemployment (i.e. the leaders of the Labour and Social Democratic parties) must be repeatedly asked whether they are also advocating wage, price and salary control. If they will not come clean they are offering a dishonest prospectus. Only the Liberals seem to have accepted these unpalatable truths.

The Thatcher system of controlling prices by competition and monetary restraint, and wages by unemployment, has least the merit of logic, even if it is at the same time brutal. We can, as it were, choose amputation or splinting in perpetuity. What we cannot have is a cure by painless monetary injection, however big.

Yours faithfully,
TAYLOR,
House of Lords,
March 11.

Budget question

From Mr Hugh Williams
Sir, Isn't it odd how, year after year, successive Chancellors fail to make the one logical, obvious and uncontroversial change in the Budget — namely to change the end of the income-tax year from April 5 to March 31?

All other tax years (ie corporation tax, VAT, etc) end on March 31; all other Government department accounts run to March 31; there is even a law which directs the Government to end all its financial years on March 31 and yet, for some extraordinary and unexplained reason, we still have to complete our tax returns with details that related to the illogical and maddeningly awkward year which begins on April 6 in one year and ends on April 5 in the next.

It would make far more sense if the income-tax return ran from April 1 to March 31. Yours faithfully,
HUGH WILLIAMS,
Lower Willowsworth,
Peter Tavy,
Tavistock, Devon.

Cattle market welfare

From Mr D. C. E. Roberts
Sir, In his letter (March 11) Mr Griffith rebukes his employers, the RSPCA, for making their cattle market inspectors redundant. In so doing he claims that no one — and he includes local authority inspectors and the ministry staff — cares about the welfare of animals in markets.

With respect, that claim is just not true, at least so far as this market is concerned, as its enforcement actions, including prosecutions, bear witness. We care and shall continue to care.

So far as the ministry are concerned, whilst I cannot speak for them directly, I must say that we work closely with their field officers and do indeed have a very good working relationship and advice is valued. Your readers should also be aware that some of the major auctions have a veterinary surgeon present or available on a retained basis and they have assisted my inspectors on a number of occasions.

From our experience, many farmers attending auctions and who witness cruelty, because it must be acknowledged that it does occur from time to time, also provide a ready source of information to my inspectors. Yours faithfully,
D. C. E. ROBERTS,
Chief Inspector of Trading Standards,
Shropshire County Council,
The Shirehall,
Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury.

Gamble on the arts

From Mr Patrick Howarth
Sir, After reading in your columns (March 4) of the opening of the splendid, but costly, new arts centre in the City of London I stroled out to look at another cultural complex, which is nearing completion here in Cannes. This complex will also provide Cannes with a new casino.

Not for the first time I found myself wondering why in Britain, when we build a new and inevitably uneconomic centre for the arts, we never seem to equip it with facilities for routine and other pastimes from which the management can derive a profit. Yours faithfully,
PATRICK HOWARTH,
Villa Lucior,
Rue du Dr. Bertrand Lepine,
06400 Cannes,
France.

Times out of joint

From Mr Eric Ambrose
Sir, On Dec 14 1971, under the heading "Forever Ambrose" you noted in *The Times* Diary my rejection slip from the Editor of *Building*, received after 19 years. Today I have received a rejection card from the Editor of *The Times* postmarked March 5, 1993.

I am developing, slowly, a paranoid suspicion of editors. ERIC AMBROSE,
Metcal,
The Ridgeway,
Mill Hill, NW7.

Saturday Review

Cuckolded
by a
woman!

Roy Campbell, the poet, was a drunk, whose melancholy brought on illness. And his brush with the Bloomsbury Group was painful. His wife Mary was seduced by Vita Sackville-West (right). She had to compete for Vita's affections with, among more than a dozen other women, Virginia Woolf. It was a sad, tragic affair which left him miserable, alone and broken. His early homosexuality had backfired

By Peter Alexander

Roy Campbell was quite vain, as Harold Nicolson's friends, wealth or family connections. But for his wife Mary, an inveterate snob, it was not the least of the attractions of Nicolson's wife, Vita Sackville-West, to know that she was the daughter of Lord Sackville, that her ancestral home was Knole, the huge Elizabethan house two miles from Long Barn, that she was rich and well-travelled, that she surrounded herself with clever and famous people, and that she managed silver, spangles, and servants with equal facility. As Campbell's dislike of England grew, the Nicolson's grew. Mary's love for both increased. The poet felt this growing gulf between them very keenly. The Nicolson's wealth and generosity seemed a reproach to his own poverty. At the dinners they gave he sat silent and downcast among their friends, all his old shyness returning as they talked about people he did not know and countries he had not visited. It did not notice that he felt any resentment, wrote Harold Nicolson later: "He just felt out of it."

And as Campbell had turned to beer to rid him of his shyness at Oxford, so now his growing discomfort drove him to drink again. With increasing frequency Mary Campbell would return from the village shop to find the children alone in an empty house, doors and windows flung wide, and Campbell gone up to London to get drunk with John or Heselgrave. It was his drinking that made Mary turn to a sympathetic Vita for comfort. Vita was only too willing to provide it. Sympathy rapidly grew into something more powerful.

Mary was an unusually vivacious and beautiful woman; Vita had been an active lesbian since before her marriage to Harold (who was himself a homosexual). In later years Vita came to bear a strong resemblance to a crusty Anglo-Indian colonel, but in 1927 she seemed to Mary an endlessly fascinating being. The two women met at first in the lane below Long Barn; Campbell's frequent absences made such meetings easier.

The affair quickly became passionate. Vita soon attained her object; Mary could not long resist the turbulent demands of a woman to whom she owed so much gratitude, and whom she so much admired. And Vita, having made the conquest easily, treated it as a thing of little consequence.

Meanwhile Campbell was quite unaware of what was happening. He seems to have been pleased that his wife had found a friend. The problem of earning enough money to keep his family still tormented him; even the small rent the Campbells were paying for their cottage seemed an insupportable burden. He wrote no poetry at this time; all his energies went into earning money through articles and reviews, activity which he despised. He was being reduced to the journalism he had so proudly rejected in South Africa. There seemed no way out of the morass.

It was in mid-September 1927 that Vita offered a partial solution. The Nicolson's owned a small, new house set a little further up the slope from Long Barn. Called "the gardener's cottage", it actually housed their two children and a nanny. Vita now suggested that the Campbells should move into this cottage, rent-free, to stay as long as they liked. To her it must have seemed a masterly combination of beneficence and self-interest. Meeting with Mary would now be not only easy, but inevitable. Campbell accepted the offer with little hesitation; they moved into the cottage on October 1, 1927. He was quite unsuspecting.

Mary was by now deeply in love with Vita. Once her feelings had become fully engaged she plunged passionately into the affair, caring less and less about the secrecy. But Vita, having achieved her desire, began to draw back. Mary had become the pursuer, Vita the pursued.

Early in November Mary told her husband what was happening. The move was less daring and less cruel than it sounds. She knew that in his attitude to sexual aberrations he was very tolerant, and in the past neither had kept any secrets from the



other; he had known of her premarital affairs as she had known of his. He listened in silence, then questioned her as to the extent of the affair; she kept very little back. He was stunned by the news.

It may be that Mary had hoped to give some permanence to her relationship with Vita by forcing Campbell to recognize and acknowledge it. If so, she miscalculated. Bewildered and hurt, Campbell took the train up to London, intending perhaps to drink himself into a stupor. There, in a pub, he met the author and scholar C. S. Lewis, a man he knew only slightly from his Oxford days. To him Campbell, unable to contain himself, poured out the whole story.

Lewis, at first surprised, listened in fascinated silence, and then sat back ruminatively. "Fancy being cuckolded by a woman!" he mused. The uncharacteristically tactless remark seared itself into Campbell's mind. He was an intensely proud man; the thought of being the butt of innumerable Bloomsbury jokes was unbearable to him. The carefully

constructed public image of himself as the powerful "Zulu", drinking, fighting, and womanizing, would be turned devastatingly against him.

He flung out of the pub and went back to Weald in a black rage, his sense of betrayal now compounded with jealousy and wounded pride. That night the Campbell children woke crying to an empty house, the curtains flying from open windows, the furniture flung about. Mary, terrified, took refuge with Vita, and (according to Campbell's imaginative account) Dorothy Wellesley, whom Vita had summoned by telephone to Long Barn, set up all night with a shot-gun across her knees. The next day Vita's diary laconically records her belief that Roy was half mad.

But Campbell's rage could not be sustained at such a pitch for long. Mary was surprised by the violence of his outburst, and frightened by it, but she refused to leave Vita. For days Campbell argued, cajoled, and threatened. He chased Mary with a kitchen-knife. He demanded a divorce. When even this failed to move Mary, he

subsidized. He could hardly thrash Vita, and Harold had returned to his post abroad on October 23. Campbell had no money, no prospects, and now, it seemed, no wife.

But once his anger had cooled he began to realize how much his own behaviour had been responsible for Mary's betrayal. He blamed himself as much as he blamed her. In these circumstances, he vacillated agonizingly; he could not bear to leave her and he could not bear to stay.

According to Harold Nicolson's biographer, James Lees-Milne, Campbell was meanwhile himself having a brief affair with a bisexual friend of Vita's, Dorothy Warren, who ran the Warren Galleries. Possibly he hoped to arouse Mary's jealousy by such action.

At this point he fell ill: appendicitis was diagnosed, and in February he was taken to hospital for an operation. His illness, and the period of convalescence that followed, gave him an excuse to stay where he was, still hoping that Mary would take pity on him, or that Vita would tire of Mary.

It was during this period, in the bitter winter of 1928, that Laurens van der Post arrived in London from South Africa, and wrote to Campbell. The next day he received a reply:

My dear Laurens,

1. Go to Charing Cross Station at once
2. Buy a ticket for Sevenoaks (2/5 single or 5/- return)
3. Get in the train for Sevenoaks (the porter will do it all for you if you tell him you're a stranger. He'll show you the right train — give him a sixpence.)
4. Get out at Sevenoaks station.
5. When you get out at Sevenoaks you'll see plenty of taxis. Get in one and tell him to drive to Weald Village.
6. When you get to Weald Village ask at the Post Office, the butcher's, the baker's, or any of the shops, and they will tell you where I live. Weald is only a tiny village, everybody knows my house there...

Campbell was pathetically pleased to see Van der Post. Mary took advantage of his stay to disappear for three weeks. Vita being away at the same time, Van der Post was horrified at the squalor in which Campbell was living, scarcely stirring from his bed, and at his emaciation. He wrote later:

"I could hardly believe that the man who had walked the beach in the dark, comforting a hurt little girl in his arms and reciting a great poem with the voice of a prophet, and this thin, shivering hulk of a human being in torn and tattered clothes, could be one and the same person."

Van der Post could hardly believe that Campbell did not confide in him, he sensed that this dreadful change had something to do with Mary. Campbell was drinking heavily and continuously, mostly gin and cider because of their cheapness, and he spent his days half-dressed in his bed reading back numbers of the German magazine *Der Querschnitt*. There were very few blankets in the house, and Van der Post found it difficult to sleep because of the cold. Several times he woke to find that Campbell had covered him during the night with his own blanket, and he was astonished that even in this extremity of misery Campbell did not forget his duty to a guest.

It was days before Van der Post was able to persuade Campbell to accompany him to London to meet another South African, the journalist and painter Enslin du Plessis. Although it was a bitterly cold day, Campbell wore neither overcoat nor tie, but clasped a thin jacket over his grey flannel trousers, so torn that the skin of his buttocks was visible; he was unwashed and unshaven. They met Du Plessis in Fleet Street, and went to Grooms', an old coffee-house, for a meal.

Mary's return brought Campbell no relief. He lingered at Long Barn for a time, as hope faded. At last, in April 1928, he gave up. Unable to endure any longer the daily sight of Vita and Mary together, he sadly packed a small bag and took the train to London. He did not return; he had determined to leave England. To go back to South Africa was inconceivable. Instead he crossed the Channel and made his way to Martignies in Provence, where he and Mary had had such a pleasant holiday the previous summer. In that beautiful sunny village, so full of memories of past happiness, he hoped to find consolation. He was on the run again.

This is an extract from Peter Alexander's *Roy Campbell, A Critical Biography*, which is published on March 18 by the Oxford University Press, price £12.50.

He begged her to return, but she was still in love with Vita



● Campbell arrived in Provence lonely and despairing, his self-confidence shattered. He knew the strength of Vita's hold on Mary; she offered her love, comfort, support, and wealth, and she had the sort of social position which so impressed Mary.

He began writing a stream of desperate, pathetic letters to Mary, begging her to join him. He could not live without her, he wrote; more importantly, he could not write without her; he would give up drinking, he would do anything to make her happy, she would see how he had changed. And to Campbell's delight, the impossible happened. Mary agreed to return to him. The poet saw this as the surest evidence of her continued love for him. In fact, however, there is clear evidence that she was still deeply in love with Vita. Why did she return to her husband?

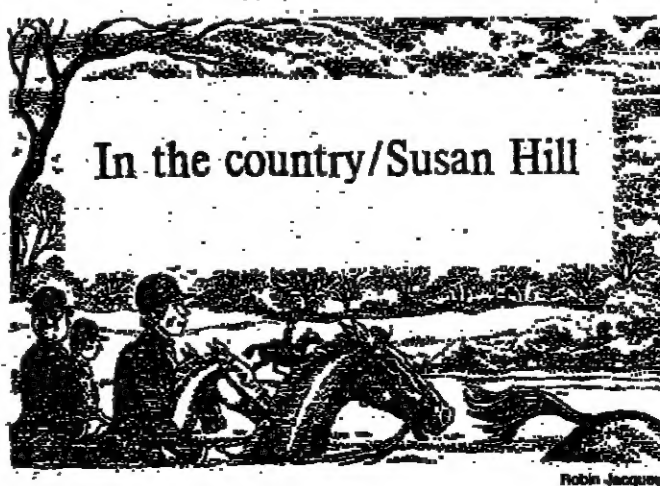
The answer seems to be that she was urged to do so by Vita, to whom she had become an embarrassment. Vita's fluid affections had begun ebbing quite early in the relationship. Moreover, she was at the same time carrying on no fewer than five other, separate affairs, one of them with Virginia Woolf. Virginia, ensnared in writing Orlando, was a frequent visitor to Long Barn; she knew about Vita's affair with Mary, and was intensely jealous. She proved a rival Mary could not hope to match.

Vita's increasing coldness, combined with Campbell's humble and desolate letters, persuaded Mary to return to him. Vita was relieved. Mary arrived in Martignies with her two daughters on 12 May 1928, to find Campbell apparently very ill and overjoyed to have her back. They found a cheap little house at 3 Rue St Mitre in Martignies, and with Mary to look after him Campbell quickly regained his health.

But though he recovered quickly and completely, there is ample evidence that his marriage did not. Mary was still deeply in love with Vita, to whom she wrote almost daily; hastily pencilled letters on odd scraps of paper, posted secretly when Campbell was out of the house. Having settled Campbell in the Rue St Mitre, she returned briefly to England to see Vita for ten days in June, and again in November 1928. Each time Campbell must have wondered whether she would return. By December she was once again despairing of living with him, and talking of separating from him and living alone. It was only gradually that they learned once again to live together as man and wife.

Following the fox

In the country/Susan Hill



I was working at my desk one Saturday morning in January when I heard the sound of the hunting horn very nearby; it had an extraordinary effect on me, stirring, exciting, so that I jumped up and ran outside, anxious to find out where they were.

When I was a child, and a teenager, I rode a lot and hunted occasionally, though I was never very intrepid, and always followed along fairly far to the back, on a fat, sedate old pony, and went round all the gates and high hedges. But I enjoyed it, the whole colourful, lively event, the meet outside an inn or manor house, the way the very fresh horses were so giddy and restless, the trays of sandwiches and drinks, the admiring crowd, the spurt of fear and pleasure in your stomach as the hunters moved off and then the chase over fields and getting cold and covered in mud and coming home aching and filthy, to bath and rest.

I was not a bloodthirsty child — indeed, rather the contrary — but nevertheless I took the whole business of hunting calmly, for granted, and never thought about the ethics of it. Man has always hunted, for food or sport or both, some primitive instinct is still aroused by the chase. We do have to control foxes and I doubt if there are any more humane methods, though actually hunting is not particularly efficient. I scarcely remember a kill in my youth, and often we did not even find.

When I got outside into the garden of Moon Cottage, I heard the horn again, braying through the clear air, and then I saw them, streaming down the Buttercup field, immediately installed, the whole marvellous array of them, men in pink, women in black, and the great strong hounds and, at the back, the little Thelwell girls with pigtailed bouncing up and down, being steered clear of

a particularly nasty ditch. They went over the fences and on up the Rise and for sixpence I could have gone with them, I wanted to have a horse again and fly and fly...

There is a good story in the village about the time the hunt ended up in the garden of Mrs. Miggs, aged ninety-four. Mrs. Miggs was in one of the oldest, low-lying cottages down Fen Lane, a narrow, thick-walled house with minute windows entirely obscured by indoor geraniums, gangly and overgrown. She has a sort of lightless inner parlour where she sits all day with her canary and her wireless which, because she is deaf, she has turned up very loud. On this particular day, she was happily installed, listening to the Jimmy Young Show, when the fox, followed close by the whole pack of hounds, broke through the hedge into her kitchen garden while the rest of the hunt milled about in the lane

outside steaming and panting and horses pressed their great hind-quarters against the door and windows of the cottage. There was a tremendous racket, and the fox was finished off. It brought out everyone else in the lane but Mrs. Miggs sat on, quite oblivious to all of it, doing

her crochet and listening to the music.

The foxes in Barley have been getting more and more open-faced in their boldness this past winter. One Sunday morning, one went up the track into the stable-yard behind the Grange where Mrs. Lavender keeps her hens

running free and killed six right off, while everyone was singing "Ye Holy Angels Bright" at morning service a few yards away. The following Sunday he went back at precisely the same time for the rest.

Mrs. Lavender hunts twice, weekly in winter and who could blame her for feeling bloodthirsty then, yet her heart being also soft at the core, when she saw an injured fox sitting in the middle of the orchard beyond her window her distress was great and she went all over the village to find a man with a gun who would come at once and put the poor creature down.

War by trap was waged after a very tame, very pet Muscovy duck was taken in Ellen's beautifully tended garden near the post box, and she caught seven foxes within a few weeks, but there were plenty more where they came from, in Foxley Spinney and Spoke Woods, and all the little copses around

and about between Barley and the Fen, and the next week, the village school chickens were massacred and left lying all over the run headless, to the agony of the child in charge of locking them away at the time. I can forgive them for taking hens for food, but not for the fun of slaughter, and yet I wonder if it is only a desire to keep down the fox population which makes one respond, as I did, to the sound of the tally-ho?

When it has snowed, we see the fox tracks every morning, they run up our garden from the low wall, and around the hen run and then across the lane into the field opposite. He makes a regular, routine check, so that if we forget once to shut the door of the henhouse, he will pounce. On winter nights, too, we hear the eerie shrieks of the vixen down in the spinney below Sheep Hill, and the barks of the dog foxes fighting over her, they are sounds to chill the blood,

to make you pull the curtains together more tightly and throw another log on the fire.

Yet the fox would never harm a human, and when seen at close quarters he is no more alarming than a dog — I am always taken aback each time by how much smaller and slighter he is in reality than in my mind.

I shall never trust him nor encourage him to come near, but the countryside would be the poorer without him, for in the fox we have a villain and a scapegoat, something to remind us of the essential bloodiness of nature. In this quiet countryside, he is the nearest we get to all those ravaging wolves and brute bears of the wild, and of legend.

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These articles are edited extracts from *The Magic Apple Tree* by Susan Hill, to be published by Hamish Hamilton on April 29.
Next week: Mrs Miggs in the springtime

New York/John Heilpern

A many gendered thing

The release of a cluster of Hollywood films about homosexuality, in these Moral Majority days, is surprising. The box-office success in America of two such films — the male homosexual *Making Love* and the lesbian *Personal Best* — is, I think, disturbing.

But when in Blake Edwards' forthcoming *Victor, Victoria*, Robert Preston is seen in bed with another man in the opening shot, and James Garner falls in love with a man who, in fact, is a female transvestite — and, indeed, when this same female transvestite is a drag queen played by Julie Andrews, of all sweet, innocent people — then we may safely conclude that the love that dare not speak its name has finally emerged from the Hollywood closet. But more of the *Pirandello* *Victor, Victoria* anon.

At stake in these films, described as The New Realism in portraying homosexuals, is an explosive issue. When it comes to the immensely pervasive medium of the cinema, how Hollywood portrays them will be how they are actually perceived by the majority. In the past, almost all Hollywood films have portrayed homosexuals as caricatures, mostly as joke-figures, mostly as villains or fools, pathological, predatory, and — deserved fate, the films imply — suicidal.

The historic breakthrough of such films as *Making Love* is, it is claimed, that for the first time Hollywood is portraying homosexuals as normal, sane, unremarkable people. "A lot of people in Middle America," says the screenwriter of *Making Love*, "the fact that a gay person can be a doctor or a lawyer will be a major revelation."

In short, and in the name of truth, we are led hopefully to believe that the popular film images of effeminate stereotypes (and "manly" stereotypes, of homosexuals as psychopaths, freaks and misfits, are at an end.

While this is certainly true of *Making Love*, the truth is that we are offered, alas, something that approaches the first, homosexual Boris Day film. In spite of all the claims made by its producers, *Making Love* is not a serious film about homosexuality. In fact the word homosexual is never actually mentioned. It is a soap opera, directed by a master of soap operas, Arthur Hiller, who 12 years ago brought us *Love Story*.

The film concerns the break-up of an excessively happy marriage between an excessively sweet doctor and an excessively sweet television executive who read Rupert Brooke and make love before log fires — the sort of thing that would make any real couple throw up. While all this is done, the film, however, it transpires, that after eight years of marriage, the doctor has, suddenly, acquired a faraway look in his eye, particularly when young men in leather studs rev by on motorcycles.

In the conventional soap opera, The Other Woman would be expected to foul things up. She does so here, though, disguised as The Other Man. "The night my father died," confesses The Other Man about his cruel father who tried to force him to play baseball as a child, "I went out to a gay bar for the first time."

Well, doc and The Other Man sleep together in soft light, and the doc confesses all to his wife who receives the shattering news as if her husband had just told her the washing machine had broken down.

Real feelings simply do not intrude. There is no evidence of pain or confusion on the doc's part. Everyone lives happily ever after. The wife remarries a dim architect and names their child Rupert (after Rupert Brooke), the doc goes to live with a spectacularly understanding man in a million-dollar penthouse in New York. The message is clear: It's OK to be homosexual if you're a doctor in cashmere sweaters.

Personal Best, starring the leggy Mariel Hemingway and written and directed by the highly regarded screenwriter Robert Towne (*Chinatown*, *Shampoo*) takes as its central theme another controversial issue: lesbianism in women's athletics, though Towne puts it differently.

"I have an absolutely blatant prejudice for women athletes," he says, "for their bodies, the way they move, their temperament." Mr. Towne loves women and has tried to express their love for each other. But then he

adds: "Just watching women athletes, black their sweat socks, knock me out."

And that, I think, is worrying. Against Towne's better instincts, he has made a voyeuristic film of a peculiar kind. Though some American critics see within *Personal Best* images of "beauty and innocence," a celebration of women's bodies, and "a film about normal life," such praise beats me. *Personal Best* is a strange magazine film which illustrates Towne's fondness for women's sweat-soaked, running shoes, calves, thighs,

and, in close-up after close-up, buttocks.

It would be foolish to deny that women's athletics today are without sex appeal, but if that is all Towne gets from them, he is missing a great deal. In the same way that *Personal Best* lacks real understanding about the pursuit of excellence in athletics — compare its track sequences to *Chariots of Fire* — so the story of the lesbian love affair is just as surface and adolescent. It is also dispensable. For Marjalee Hemingway only "finds herself," her true, acceptable,

adult self, when she has abandoned her lesbian lover for the love of a man.

Not forgetting Dickens, who achieved this in the first place, its projection into sound bespeaks at once the most skilful selection of material, accomplished direction and first-class casting.

I have heard few prodigious in which it has been less of a problem to pick out who is who. No doubt certain touches of the grotesque in the original characterization help this along, but the actors' interpretations are what count: Brenda Blethyn's Esther, Summerson, for example, is outstanding; for this is a role in which a young lady can easily sound a bit of a ninny — Miss Blethyn is both appealing and firm, qualities which in their way also invest Michael Bryant's Jarndyce as a formidable disquieting as Mr. Tulk-

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Theatre/Irving Wardle

Reptilian charm

The Little Foxes

Victoria Palace

At £25 for a stalls seat, I would not go so far as to say that you get your money's worth from this revival of Lillian Hellman's study of naked greed, but at least you get a good play and good cast thrown in.

Taylor's first appearance on the British stage since her wordless apparition as Helen of Troy during the Burton era.

"Melodramatic" is the usual word hurled at *The Little Foxes* to punish it for its 1959 success on Broadway. To which you can only say that the bulk of literature from the American South earns the same dismissal.

Miss Hellman's family portrait of the Hubbards — Southern Reconstruction businessmen who have built their mansions out of black bones — is indeed a neatly plotted piece; the two brothers and their aptly named sister Regina each plotting to outsmart the others in a deal with industrial Chicago. But the events also carry a sense of place and time as pervasive as the flooding bayous, and the characters are beautifully drawn both as individuals and as members of a pecking order.

One virtue of Austin Pendleton's production is that it pays them full respect instead of parading them as degenerate monsters. They are, each in their way, a product of their time and place; they have endeared

ing foibles; they even have a sense of fun. It thus hurts all the more when brother Oscar (Nicholas Coster) whips his victimized wife across the face before gallantly adjusting her wrap; or when Miss Taylor, leveling quite honestly with her sick husband, placidly folds her hands on her lap when he has a stroke and lets him crawl off unaided to die upstairs.

Miss Taylor, changing tight-laced costumes as often as you could wish, looks in fact like a real woman, a tip-top shape; and has a strong line in reptilian Southern charm. Her technique is to take you through the character in the course of a single speech. "You will have to tell me everything you thought; someday," she remarks to her husband (J. D. Cannon), starting with a brilliant smile and "you'll" cadences, modulating through irony, finally facing out front to show a baleful mask on the last word.

She has a fine partner in Robert Lansing, a craggy quick-witted actor in the Jason Robartes mould, who supplies a credible brother as well as a main adversary. At the end of each battle the two of them collapse in giggles, as if still playing a game that has been going on since childhood. Other good performance from Sada Thompson as the luckless Birdie and William Youmans as the nastiest of all the chips off the old block. Howard Bay's set is needlessly ugly, and lacking in the necessary depth for the action-packed stage.

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Television/Dennis Hackett

Sustainable spoof

Quite a lot of television drama is stretched beyond its content so it was refreshing to see last night's BBC2 Playhouse production, *Pocketful of Dreams*, beautifully tailored to a mere 35 minutes.

At this length it was an entirely sustainable spoof with a special humour for film and television people who might have been viewing, though the "in" gags were not so obvious that they precluded enjoyment by those at a distance from the business.

Charlie and Denny are bank robbers with a straight-forward and over-the-top, a shotgun and a note over the counter. By chance they see a film crew enacting a bank robbery by a similar method and their professional disdain

at the amateurism of it all is succeeded by a bright idea: film company themselves, but with purely felonious intent.

A banker is found, convincing, and small companies are set up to impress a bank. Gang members are recruited and trained by a professional film-maker in techniques and even appropriate dress, the latter being not too difficult for villains to adapt to. The bank agrees to the shooting and all seems to be going well.

The snag is that by this time the gang has largely become hooked on film-making to the point where Charlie finds it difficult to get them to concentrate on the more serious business of robbery and, at the bank, it is this dichotomy of interests

that causes the gang to be rumbled and arrested.

It was a good bit of fun and lasted the distance. It was written by Jim Hill, who has hitherto established a track record as a director of the comic. The director on this occasion, making 22, was Stuart Urban, and the producer, Terry Coles.

Michael Elphick, who has several times demonstrated his capacity to make villainous attractive, enjoyed himself as Charlie; Philip Jackson, as his crony Denny. They were supported by a cast who had obviously seen this kind of filming before but did not overplay it and there was a particularly good performance from Wolfe Morris as the banker.

Radio/David Wade

A novel approach to listening

It goes without saying — but it is worth saying — that radio adapted for radio is not the same as — inevitably less than — the original. Most novels are mostly narrative, or at least prose; most adaptations are mostly dialogue. We hear less of the author's voice; tones give way to the author's shape and with it the author's shape and emphasis. The characters remain and indeed grow, for now almost everything must be conveyed through them; actors and director bring them to us, adding a further layer of interpretation, interposing if you like a further

screen, yet it is also this which can bring back to the whole enterprise some of the tones and subtleties which the text has lost.

What the listener ends up with can be and, on the evidence of recent Radio 4 Sunday serial adaptations, often is a lively, moving work in its own right. Certainly this goes for Betty Davies' version and Jane Morgan's production of *Bleak House* now approaching the sixth of its eight episodes.

As so often happens when something is done well, sounds right and that apparently is all there is to be said. Thus with this production it seems perfectly in line with the strands of such a labyrinthine story should be so clear and that the immense number of characters should be so easy to recognise and so

very much alive in the mind. Not forgetting Dickens, who achieved this in the first place, its projection into sound bespeaks at once the most skilful selection of material, accomplished direction and first-class casting.

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Chess/Harry Golombek

Masterly youngsters

How do you popularize chess and how do you ensure a constant flow in the stream of chess from beginners to club player, then to national player, then to master-player and finally to grandmaster? There is one infallible way and that is catch-em young.

Chess is eminently a game for the quick in mind, that is, for the young. There used to be two mistaken prejudices against the game among non-chessplayers. One was that it was a slow game fit only for greybeards and the other was that it tended to distract children from their studies and to slow up their academic progress.

The truth is the reverse. Just look at the number of children who play and excel at the game nowadays. As for the second prejudice, there is no better training for the mind than chess which teaches us how to concentrate and think logically.

This year's Arc Young Masters' tournament, sponsored by the Amey Roadstone Corporation, was held at Westgate from February 26-28. It was a pronounced success, containing one grandmaster and 11 international masters, together with masses of children whose enthusiasm was a delight to watch. There were 68 players in the principal event, the Arc Young Masters' tournament, and 11 players of all ages competed and five other tournaments limited to certain ages: under-21, under-16, under-14, under-12 and under-10.

Six rounds were played in three days and there was a close struggle for the top prizes (1st £500, 2nd £250, 3rd £200, 4th £150, 5th £100, 6th £50). In the end three tied for top place so that grandmaster Johnathan Speelman, R. Britton and A. Martin all received £560 with a score of 5 points. Two international masters, William Hartston and James Plaskett, shared the next place with R. Blackwell, N. Dickinson, S. Finlayson, P. Large and P. Wells with 4½ each.

The British champion, international master Paul Littlewood, and two more international masters, Michael Basman and Nigel Povah, along with K. Arkell and J. Richardson, had 4. Among the 3½s were the British Lady champion, Sheila Jackson, the former European Junior champion, international master Shaun Taulbut and two further international masters, Robert Bellin and Nigel Davies.

The under-16 world champion, Stuart Conquest, scored 3 and celebrated his 15th birthday the day following the tournament.

Another interesting entry was that of the New Zealanders, who achieved this in the first place, its projection into sound bespeaks at once the most skilful selection of material, accomplished direction and first-class casting.

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Travel: edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Napa Valley/Ivor Davis

Connoisseur's California

For those who persist in thinking of California in terms of formica-filled motels and plastic food, there can be no better antidote than a trip to the Napa Valley, the heart of the United States' wine country.

Dotted with country inns which for charm and comfort are unmatched anywhere in the world, the food in Napa is on a par with the best that France has to offer, not surprising perhaps when one considers that many of the chefs are émigrés from Paris.

With the accent on nouvelle cuisine, the Napa cuisine is the result of a happy marriage between French skill and California's rich harvest of fresh vegetables, fruits and sea foods. Lulled by the mild breezes wafting through the miles upon miles of vineyards that cover the gentle, rolling terrain of the valley and fuelled by the excellent cabernet sauvignons or pinot noirs, more than 150 wineries that give the place its reputation as America's wine country, the visitor to Napa may well believe he has discovered paradise.

Autumn is a particularly good time to visit. The vineyards are a sea of shimmering reds and golds, oranges and yellows. The day weather is mild, with a chill in the evenings against which thoughtful innkeepers provide fireplaces in bedrooms.

The acacias (mimosas) flower and the valley is smothered in the fluffy yellow flowers with their intoxicating scent. In late summer the grapes are pressed and the sweet smell of fermentation is everywhere.

Each season provides its own charm and the wineries

are open for tours and tasting all year round.

Napa, an easy one-hour drive from San Francisco, or Oakland across the bay, is only a few miles wide and 35 miles long. Two main roads run its length. The most famous, the Silverado Trail, was immortalized in *Silverado* by Robert Louis Stevenson, who spent his honeymoon here. The other is Highway 29, making it very convenient to drive one route all the way up and use the other to return. Vineyards and wineries line the sides of both.

For the more enterprising, a splendid view of the valley and an exhilarating experience is provided by companies like Adventures Aloft who will take you up and away in a highly coloured hot air balloon and serve champagne when you touch earth. (Rides cost about \$90 per person).

The whole valley can be explored in two or three days, depending upon how many wines you want to sample. But the delights of the bed and breakfast inns may well make you want to linger.

The best place to start is in Yountville, a picturesque town which in the past few years has become the most chic of the valley's watering stops. The Burgundy House in Yountville is an 1874 stone building in the French country style run most hospitably by Mary Keenan and her architect husband Robert. Originally the Keenans renovated the building to house their antiques business but pretty soon, with millions of visitors crowding into Napa every year, they were persuaded to rent out their

antique brass beds instead of selling. The Burgundy House has six bedrooms packed with antiques, and a couple of subsidiary cottages. It serves beautiful fresh fruit and freshly baked breakfast cakes to its guests.

The newest addition to the Keenan "chain" is the Bordeaux House for those who prefer their lodgings in the modern style.

Our first night in town both the Burgundy and Bordeaux Houses were full and the Keenans arranged what turned out to be the highlight of our trip. We spent the night in the guest house of a couple of local residents, Anita Clay Kornfeld, who wrote *Vintage*, the definitive novel about the area, and her sculptor husband John Kornfeld, who was once one of San Francisco's leading impresarios.

The guest house, which is in great demand by visitors, is completely self-contained with its own swimming pool, overlooking the entire valley. We were provided with a hi-fi, a wonderful set of records, a bottle of local wine and an excellent decanter of sherry.

Before leaving Yountville it is imperative to have lunch or dinner at the Domaine Chandon champagne cellars. Run by the French firm of Moët-Hennessy, they are now firmly entrenched in the valley and producing their superb brut and cuvee de pinot noir sparkling wines. (They don't call them champagnes in deference to the mother country.)

In addition to an interesting tour of the winery, where one gets a quick education into the finer points of the *methode champenoise*, Domaine Chandon runs one



The Burgundy House, Yountville: packed with antiques

of the finest restaurants in the valley. We had local Moss Bay oysters and quail followed by a visit to a table groaning with magnificent desserts, all washed down, of course, with the company's own product.

After that lunch one almost flies the few miles up valley to St Helena, passing the famous wineries of Inglenook and Robert Mondavi en route.

St Helena is home of some of the oldest and most important wineries in Napa — Beringer, Charles Krug, Louis Martini, Christian Brothers, Freemark Abbey, and another one of the valley's finer restaurants, The Miramonte, where the chef is Udo Nechutneys, a disciple of Paul Bocuse and formerly the chef of Domaine Chandon. The food is superb, not inexpensive but to those used to Euro-

pean prices it will seem quite reasonable.

Alternatively one might stop for dinner in Rutherford, half way between Yountville and St Helena, at a brand new restaurant, L'Auberge du Soleil, undoubtedly the most elegant eating place in the valley.

Onwards from St Helena to Calistoga, famous for its natural geysers and mud-baths, and now for its distinguished wineries, among them the Hans Kornell and Schramsberg champagne cellars.

The place to stay is the Mount View Hotel, brilliantly restored in the art deco style. Stop in at the cocktail lounge, a vision of ebony and silver with a pianist playing tunes of the 1920s and 1930s. If Cole Porter walked in one wouldn't be at all surprised.

Despite new inns springing up virtually daily, bedroom

space in the valley is still in short supply, so make reservations early and before you arrive. Ask your innkeeper make dinner and lunch reservations for you in advance.

Don't try to visit more than three wineries a day, though the temptation is great. All the wines will begin to taste alike and you won't remember which is which.

On the day you plan dinner at the Miramonte, Domaine Chandon or the like, pick up some cheese, pate, fruit and French bread and have a picnic lunch on the grounds of one of the wineries. (Several have facilities.)

Price note: Most of the inns from the Burgundy to the Kornfeld's guest house range in price from \$45 to \$115 — depending upon availability, and that includes breakfast and wine.

Destination	Nights	Company	Price	Saving	Departure
SEASIDE, Los Angeles, France	7/8/8	Thomas Cook	£198	£20	Apr 10
Chamonix, France	7/8/8	Thomas Cook	£139	£20	Mar 10, Manchester
Courmayeur, Italy	7/8/8	Thomas Cook	£119	£20	Apr 10
Val d'Aoste, France	7/14/8	Club Mark Warner	£105/274	£104/50	Mar 20
Meribel, France	7/14/8	Club Mark Warner	£115/284	£114/50	Mar 20
Verbier, Switzerland	7/14/8	Club Mark Warner	£110/288	£109/50	Mar 20
Les Arches, France	7/14/8	Thomson	£84/106	£25/30	Mar/Apr, Manchester
Portofino, Italy	14/8	Small World	£119	£30	Mar 21
Arles, Italy	14/8	Small World	£169	£20	Mar 20
St Anton, Austria	14/8	Small World	£209	£30	Mar 28
Courchevel, France	14/8/8	Holiday Villas	£142	£36	Mar 20
Courchevel	7/14/8	Sid West	£149/248	£70	Mar 20
Verbier	7/8/8	Sid West	£102	£58	Mar 20
Courmayeur	7/8/8	Sid West	£105	£40	Mar 20
Zermatt, Switzerland	7/14/8	Sid West	£176/251	£49/58	Mar 27
Meribel	7/14/8	Sid West	£130/158	£60/105	Apr 3
St Anton	7/8/8	Supertravel	£128	£50	Mar 21
Tignes, France	7/8/8	Supertravel	£101	£30	Mar 20
Verbier	7/8/8	Supertravel	£99	£105	Apr 10
Meribel	7/8/8	Supertravel	£99	£105	Apr 10
St Anton	7/8/8	Supertravel	£99	£105	Apr 11
Val d'Isère	7/14/8	Sid MacG	£185/285	£42/51	Mar 29
Meribel	7/14/8	Sid MacG	£219/319	£29/39	Mar 27
Val d'Isère	7/8/8	Sid MacG	£219	£19	Mar 27

WINTER SUN & CITIES

Malta	7/8/8	Portland	£139	£42	Apr 2 Luton
Malta	14/8/8	Portland	£139	£42	Apr 9 Luton
Corfu	7/8/8	Portland	£147	£53	Apr 4 Manchester
Rhodes	7/8/8	Portland	£165	£34	Apr 5
Ros	14/8/8	Portland	£209	£25	Apr 5
Vienne	3/8/8	Pegasus	£135	£15	Mar 29 Luton
Madrid	3/8/8	Pegasus	£180	£15	Apr 1
Toronto	7/8/8	Thomson	£197	£20	Mar 16, 25
Tangier	7/8/8	Thomson	£158	£28	Mar 25/Apr 2 Glasgow
Athens	7/8/8	Thomson	£137	£37	Mar 24 Cardiff
Vienne	3/8/8	Thomson	£105	£35	Mar 18, 26 Luton
Gambia	7/8/8	Thomson	£273	£56	Mar 25, Apr 1, 8
Malta	7/14/8	Silver	£39	£44	May 2, 9, 16, 23
Malta	7/14/8	Silver	£119	£52	May 2, 9, 16, 23
Las Palmas	7/14/8	Silver	£129	£52	May 2, 10, 17, 24
Malta	14/8/8	Tjornborg	£180	£64	Apr 17
Malta	14/8/8	Tjornborg	£199	£54	Mar 31 Manchester
Malta	7/8/8	Tjornborg	£129	£13	Apr 10

Flights are from Gatwick unless otherwise stated. All discounts are calculated on current brochure prices. *May only be booked directly. Portland telephone 01-588 5111 or 081-228 1188. Tjornborg 01-493 8616 or 081-228 8511. Small World 01-430 3235.

Discount news

Winter sports discounts are widely available this week and it looks as if a good supply of reduced price holidays will continue until Easter. Heavy Christmas and January bookings led many holiday companies to believe they could expect a sell-out season. And better than average snow conditions almost everywhere in Europe reinforced their expectations. But now there is spare capacity in top resorts and no sign of a rush to book spring skiing breaks. So a wide range of discounts is available, especially at the top end

of the package skiing market.

In addition to the discounts shown in the table, Neilson is offering reductions of up to £50 on resorts in Italy, Austria and France, on selected dates in March and April. The holiday maker chooses the board arrangement, departure date and airport, and the destination country, and the company allocates the resort and accommodation. Most departures are from Gatwick. There are also some Manchester and Newcastle flights, and a few coach travel holidays.

Spring sunshine seekers have a number of choices too. Starvillas of Cambridge offers discounts of up to £18 on two-week April holidays in the Algarve and Costa del Sol. Prices start at £157.

Throughout April Global is offering £30 off one and two week holidays on Corfu. Prices are £174 and £259 on a bed and breakfast arrangement with flights from Gatwick and Manchester. The company is also offering £10 reductions on selected holidays in Malta.

Cox & Kings is offering up to £30 off selected self-catering holidays in France and Corsica. This offer applies to summer bookings made before April 15.

And still looking forward to summer there is good news from Thomas Cook. The company has a new flight to Malta with reductions of up to £54 on hotel and self-catering holidays.

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Bridge/Jeremy Flint

Death of the Blues

When Charles Goren and his American team-mates sat down to play the seventh world championship for the Bermuda Bowl in 1957, they were doubtless supremely confident. Only a few years before, their compatriots had comprehensively defeated an Italian team which included some of the same players who were in New York on this occasion. The Americans were in for a rude shock. Not only did they lose, but by the staggering margin of 10,150 points. The era of American dominance was over.

Incredible as it seems today, some critics dismissed the result as a fluke. But the Italian Blue team won ten successive Bermuda Bowls, and the World Olympiad in 1964 and 1968. After a brief retirement, they returned to annex three more world championships and the Olympic title in 1972. From 1957 to 1975, they not only appeared invincible, they were invincible.

Astonishingly, it is now seven years since Italy won the championship. 1976 was the year when everything went awry. The narrow loss of the Olympiad was disappointing, but far less bitter than the defeat in the final of the Bermuda Bowl by the Americans. In 1977 they lost the European championship, and in 1979, despite a remarkable rally in the last 16 boards, they lost the Bermuda Bowl to the Americans again. The last two years have underlined the downward drift. Failure to qualify for the finals in Valkenburg in 1980 was followed by a dismal sixth place in the 1981 European championships.

What went wrong? There are, I believe, a number of reasons which have contributed to these recent poor results. It was in 1976 that an Italian player, who had failed to qualify for the team, accused some of the Italian players of using illegal signals. The Italians were accused of unjustified suspicion from jealous rivals, but this accusation by their own countryman was infinitely more damaging. It was surely no coincidence that their performance that year was by their high standards comparatively poor.

Carl Alberto Perroux's influence was a major factor in the Blue team's early successes. As a captain, he was a stern disciplinarian, who nevertheless inspired his men with a remarkable team spirit. He repeatedly demonstrated that he placed an equal reliance on each of his three pairs. Because they were overshadowed by the dazzling combination of Garozzo, Forquet and Avarre, the Italians were underestimated. The invaluable role that D'Alelio and Pabis Tici played. Neither they nor Avarre have represented Italy since 1969. Forquet retired from the international scene in 1976, and the great Beladonna announced that 1979 was his last world championship.

Of the legendary Blue team, only Garozzo remains. Today, even he has his detractors, who dub him a "Bridge Narcissus", implying that he has fallen in love with his own system. Some one cattily compared the Garozzo-Franco partnership in the 1981 European championship with two pliant sopranos desperately trying to outshine each other.

The successful defence on this hand was by no means easy, but I feel that the Blue team in their prime would not have lost their way. Great Britain v Italy, 1981 North-South game. Dealer West.

In the closed room, Laurie played in three no trumps, as North. He received the lead of a low spade on which he unwisely contributed dummy's ♠K. He continued with the ♠A and another club, losing to West's ♠K. West, Paul Hackett, had no difficulty finding the killing heart switch. One down, 100 to Great Britain.

This was the bidding in the open room.

	W	N	E	S
Franco	No	No	2♠	2NT
No	No	2♠	No	No
No	No	3NT	No	No

Opening lead ♠2. Rose won the club in dummy and played the ♠10, which Garozzo won with the ♠A. Garozzo correctly switched to the ♠3, which ran to Franco's ♠10. Franco continued with the ♠J. Rose took the ♠K and played two rounds of diamonds, ending in dummy. When the ♠9 was played, Garozzo was forced to cover with ♠J. This was the six card ending:

	W	N	E	S
♠	10	9	8	7
♥	10	9	8	7
♦	10	9	8	7
♣	10	9	8	7

Rose cashed the ♠A and the ♠Q. East discarding a spade, and put East on play with a heart. East could cash his winning heart, but had to concede the last two tricks to declarer's ♠Q7. Good play by declarer admittedly, but the defence missed two chances. Although it is hard to judge, Garozzo could have averted the end play by taking the ♠A and playing a third round of the suit. If Franco had taken the ♠Q7, retaining the ♠J, the end play would also fail.

What of the future? Will Italy rise again? Few would dispute that young Italian players have the talent, even if they appear to lack the discipline and maturity of the Blue team. But give them the leadership of a great captain like Perroux, and I believe they might well fulfill their undoubted potential.

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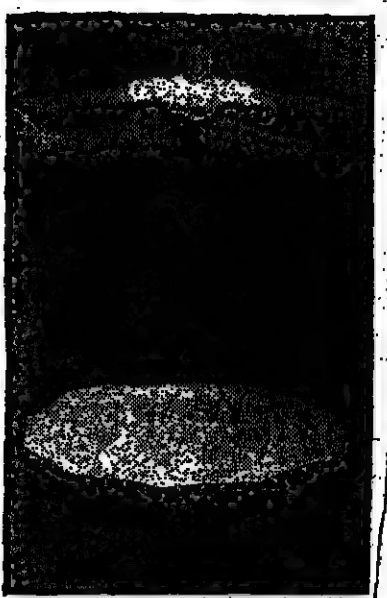
A trade descriptions inspector would have a field day in London this week. At one end of town is a covered market of mass production masquerading as "ideal". A traffic jam or two away is a display of individually designed furniture calling itself "Multiples". In the interests of accuracy they should swap titles.

Ideal, I have been led to believe by the *Concise Oxford*, means "perfect, supremely excellent; embodying an idea; visionary". Multiples signifies "many and various".

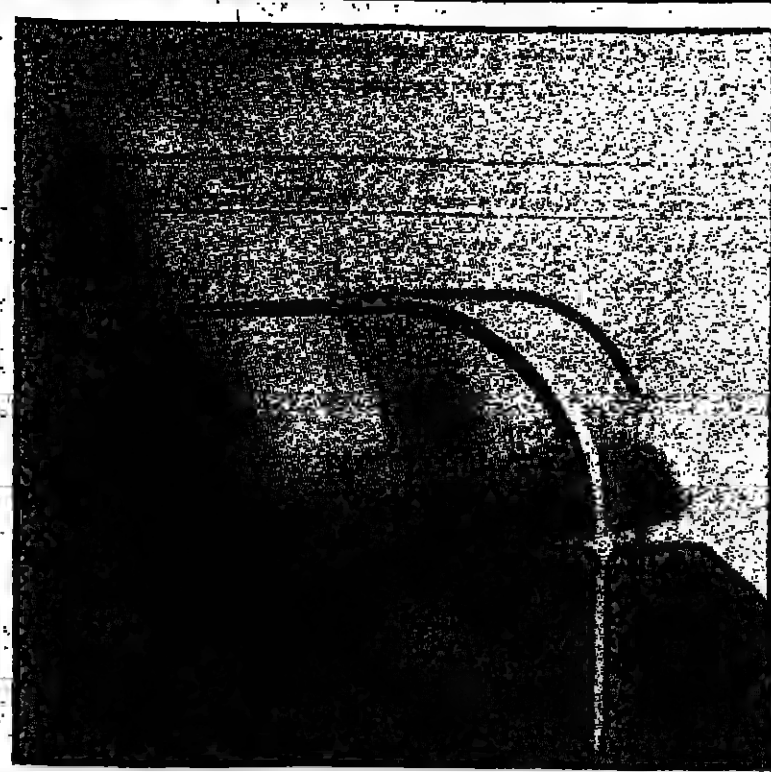
Yet the Ideal Home exhibition, which should be a showcase of commercial enterprise, is about as visionary as a blinkered donkey and Multiples, which actually does "embody an idea", shows creative design that could never be multiplied to production line quantities without losing the

quality that makes it worth having — hand craftsmanship. Anyone who remembers the Ideal Home exhibitions of many years ago will regret its descent to nothing more than a series of advertisements in the round. Once the houses were furnished by whichever of the designer's favourite manufacturers were willing to lend products. Now they are mostly kitted out by whichever company can afford to pay a substantial sum to the builder — £5,000 for the privilege of showing a range of cupboards in one house was quoted.

The result is that you see whatever the manufacturer wants to sell to a mass audience, rather than the creative talent of an interior designer given full rein, and the only success this year is achieved by Sue Rowlands in the Heritage house, whose determined use of strong colour and co-ordinated pattern is fresh and cheerful.



This new Swedish home-trampoline for keep-fit enthusiasts is demonstrated at the Ideal Home. In two sizes, 40in diameter £49.50 and 60in £79.50, from Roncastle Ltd, 42 Earls Court, WC2.



Child's chair in cleft chestnut by Richard La Trobe Bateman, £175 in the Multiples exhibition at the Warwick Arts Trust, 33 Warwick Square, SW1.

Low armchair by Floris van den Broeke, upholstered in pastel worsted twill by Morgan and Oates, £565.80 in the Multiples exhibition.

Screen-printed cloth in cheerful primary colours is available stitched and padded at £12.50 with a slot-together frame, £4, or ready framed at £18 or as plain fabric to pad at home, £10. Several designs available from The Market, Covent Garden, London WC2 and 2 George Street, Bath. Also at the Ideal Home exhibition.



Truffles ahead

If music were the food of love we'd all be a good deal thinner. I speak bitterly as one in the throes of a non-consuming passion — yet another diet — and I will not easily forget the rarely recorded sound of contented subscribers as they munched through the fresh cream truffles my conscience obliged me to cast before them.

The chocolates had been sent round by Barkers of Kensington — a golden carton of dark delights made by a young man in Tunbridge Wells called Howard, who learnt to be a confectioner in Switzerland and now delivers each week to Barkers and Army & Navy, Victoria.

There are eight flavours of Howard's handmade cream truffles — milk, vanilla, caramel and coffee, rum, Grand Marnier, whisky and cognac. Presentation boxes are £4.95 lb, £8.50 2lb, cartons of 100z £2.95, or pick your own selection at 95p 4lb. They are sold from refrigerated cases in the stores and will keep for four weeks once you get them home.

Talking about food, a touring exhibition called *The Upstairs Downstairs of a Dinner Party* offers an instructive and entertaining hour and a half packed with information on choosing wines, arranging the flowers and planning the menu.

It is sponsored by 24 manufacturers of foods, drinks and kitchen appliances and the recipes demonstrated will be asparagus mousse, seafood delicatessen, steak and stilton and a meringue gateau.

There will be morning, afternoon and evening shows in Esher on March 24 and 25; Bath March 30, 31 and April 1; Chester April 14 and 15; Coventry April 21 and 22; Beaconsfield April 28 and 29. Tickets are £1.50 each, or £1.25 for groups of ten or more. Some sessions are already sold out, but several are still available — enquiries to Mrs Carol Macartney, Dinner Party Secretariat, 25 Park Road, London NW1 6XN. Telephone 01-723 0725.

A helping touch for the blind

A fighting foreword concerning the insularity of some charities for the blind introduces the 1982 edition of *In Touch*, the BBC's handbook of aids and services for the blind and partially sighted.

St. Dunstan's, whose 28th assets make it the richest of these charities, comes under attack for being "surprisingly reluctant to contribute to projects which help the blind in general", although last year there remained only 998 war-blinded men and women living in Britain.

People imagine that the blind are particularly well served in this country but in fact, because of the lack of specialist social workers, very little more information is automatically available to a newly blind person today than when we produced our first edition nine years ago," says author Margaret Ford.

"St. Dunstan's have helped in the past with the welfare of blind people generally — they contributed, for instance, to the Talking Book Service, but this unfortunately has less than 4,000 titles to serve 54,000 blind people."

"It is now technically possible to record full-length novels on only two C90 cassettes for use on a new type of recording machine, but this would cost millions. The money is there — £56 million between the four major charities — if only that would make it available for the benefit of all blind people."

Many of the difficulties faced by people who are newly reg-

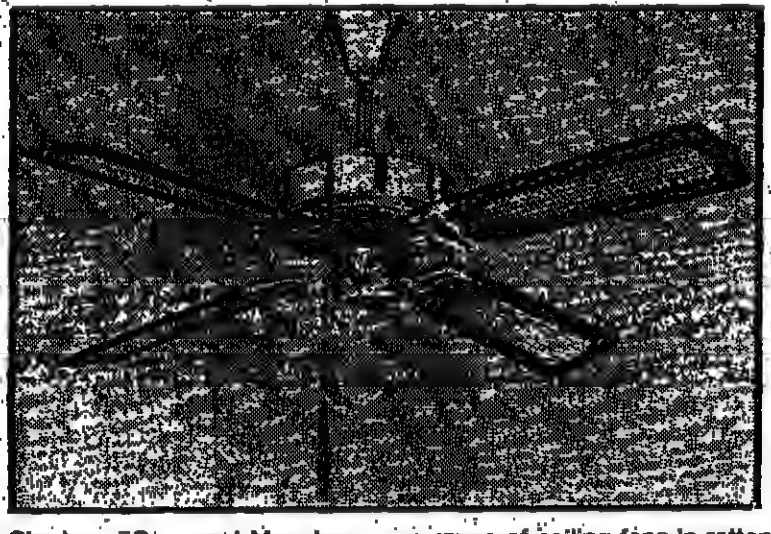
tered as blind, however, involve understanding and practical help rather than vast sums of money, and solutions to everyday problems are exactly what Margaret Ford and Thana Heshel offer in their handbook.

It includes advice on allowances and employment, kitchen layout, safety, chop-choppers, slippers, leisure pursuits, travel and education. It also suggests ways of detecting visual handicap in small children and gives guidance on looking after the largest group of sufferers, the elderly.

Many old people — and the number of those over 85 is expected to increase from 464,000 in 1980 to 527,000 in 1995 — do not become registered as blind and are not aware of the services available — for instance that all those registered are eligible for a radio set on free permanent loan from the British Wireless for the Blind Fund.

The book is available from BBC Publications, PO Box 734, London SE81 3TF for £2.95 including postage. Its thoroughness will be appreciated by the newly blind who are bewildered by such apparently simple acts as making a cup of tea and its practical, down-to-earth attitudes will be invaluable to those who want to help, but don't know how.

"It is hoped," say the authors, "that sighted readers will receive the message that the real need of the blind is not a sheltered seat in a stunted garden but the opportunity to take their place in the busy busy of everyday life."



Shades of Somerset Maugham — a range of ceiling fans in rattan and wood launched in London this week by Christopher Wray.

They circulate a gentle breeze in summer and some have a reverse switch to push down warm air in winter. The Old Style, above, has a polished brass finish, £175, the Casablanca comes in polished brass, antique brass or chrome from £125. Both can be fitted with a selection of light pendants. From Christopher Wray branches at 600 Kings Road, SW6 and in Bristol and Leeds.

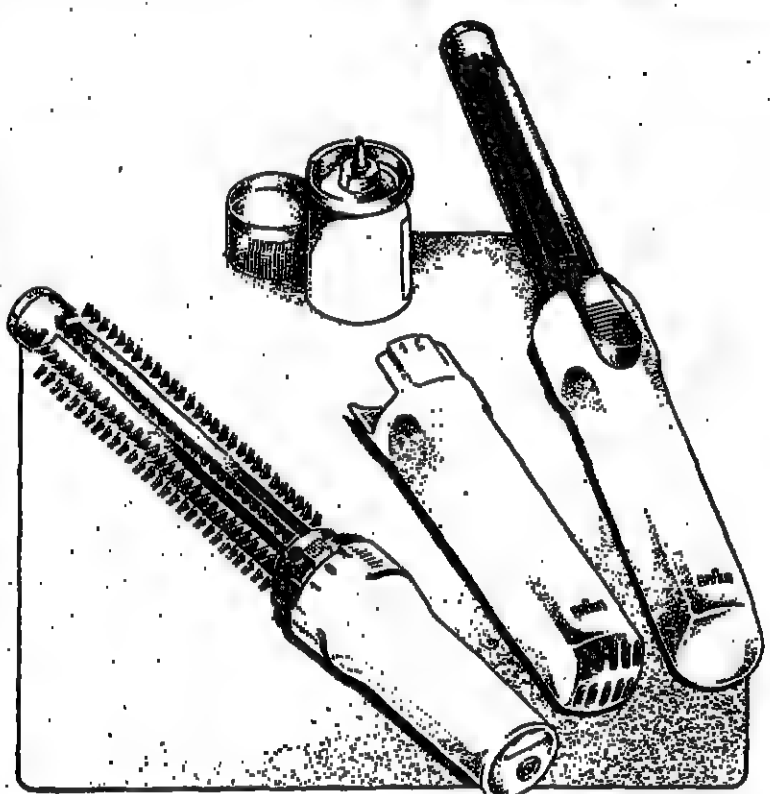
Right: Do not Pooh-pooh this less-than-lovely piece of plastic. It commemorates this year's centenary of A. A. Milne's birth and it may one day end up in a museum of memorabilia. It costs £85 (£5 p&p) from the Telephone Box, 339 Fulham Road, SW10. Mickey Mouse and Snoopy are also available — just be thankful no one has yet thought of similarly beatifying Buzby.

Less hairy today

Life in at least one Scottish public school is, I am happy to learn, less hairy than it used to be. They have replaced their old-fashioned iron bedsteads with modern units — and now they don't know what to do with the old horsehair mattresses.

Mr K. J. Houston, housemaster of Rogerson East House, Merchiston Castle School, Colinton, Edinburgh, saw my recent comments about amateur upholsterers throwing away "valuable horsehair".

At the moment a local d-i-y enthusiast asks for one mattress every year or so, but that rate of progress does not suit Mr Houston, whose school motto is Ready as Ready. Would anyone who is planning to corner the market in sofa stuffing like to make him an offer?



The latest hair styling tongs can be taken anywhere in the world without the bother of remembering a suitable adaptor plug. They work on butane gas, which comes in refill cylinders at 99p each — about two months' supply. Simply fill the tank in the handle, switch on and the tongs heat within seconds, reaching optimum temperature in five minutes. Called the Braun Independent, the tongs cost £10.95, the styling wand £11.95, each with a mini refill to last one month. Both from major branches of Boots and at Harrods.

Gardening/Roy Hay Rake's progress

The bitter winter, coming after a year with above average rainfall, has been hard on our lawns. The last few weeks have been fairly mild and it may be we shall have what all gardeners would wish to be without — an early spring. We prefer a late spring which as the old saying goes "never deceives" — that is it does not turn back on itself and damage precious young growth. If that happens it will be just too bad on top of all the massive damage to plants in December and January.

But the grass is growing now and we should be scarifying the lawn, if we want healthy turf, to rake out dead grass and other rubbish. Small lawns may be vigorously raked by hand with a wire rake, if you have the time and the muscle or somebody to do it for you; or a small electric scarifier will do quite a useful job.

For larger areas it would be worthwhile seeking out a garden machinery hire firm, if you can find one, that will rent out a larger motorized scarifier for a day or a weekend. Maybe two or three friends or neighbours could share the hire cost because one can cover a large area with a power scarifier in a day. And scarifying does do the lawn a power of good, as does slitting or piercing the turf with a lawn aerator.

Lawns as with the rest of the garden have had lime and nitrogen leached out over the past 12 months by above average rainfall. Lawns on acid soils suffer invasion by moss very readily, especially lawns that tend to be wet, although out of the 40 or more native mosses there are species which grow happily on quick draining soils that are not acid. On acid lawns it would pay to whiten the turf with a light dressing of lime now and repeat the dose once or twice at 10-day intervals.

All lawns will respond well this year to feeding with a high nitrogen lawn fertilizer, or "turf conditioner" as some firms prefer to call their product. I like to apply the first dose about now and a second application in about four weeks. Scattering a fertilizer on a lawn by hand, be it a powder or in granular form, can be a bit hit and miss. It probably does not matter very much if we put on a slight overdose here and there, especially if we water the fertilizer into the turf. This I would always do unless the weather is showery and the rain will wash it off the grass.

If you have a fairly large area of lawn to treat with fertilizer it would be worth while investing in a fertilizer spreader. These machines are also useful for spreading fertilizer on the vegetable garden and are capable of being adjusted to apply the various fertilizers quite accurately for a given rate of application.

David Hessayon, who has produced several excellent gardening books, has now published *The Lawn Expert* which he modestly claims is an enlarged edition of the world's best selling book on lawn care. It costs £1.95 and is surprisingly good value. Lavishly illustrated in colour throughout, it covers every aspect of lawn making and subsequent lawn care and maintenance.

There have been many different moss killers including those with a mercurous content but this, according to EEC regulations, must not now be sold as a cure for moss — I have not been able to find out why, because mercurous compounds may still be advertised for the control of various turf diseases and the rate of application is far higher than that we used on lawns. So we are glad to welcome Murphy's Tumblemooss which kills the moss in 12 hours and prevents its reappearance for up to 12 months. The moss

killer is chloroxuron, but Tumblemooss also contains ferric sulphate and urea which help to green up the grass and encourage its growth.

It is recommended that a general lawn fertilizer be applied two weeks after the treatment with Tumblemooss. The makers say that it is harmless to children and pets.

Recently I mentioned that one can only buy mustard, but not cress at the green-grocers' and I wondered why. Had I stopped to think as several readers have kindly pointed out the reason is obvious. Cress takes three days longer to grow than mustard. Mustard (which is not really mustard but rape) which you buy in the shop is ready for sale in about five to seven days. So cress costs the grower about half as much again in the cost of heating the glasshouse. When the wholesaler's and retailer's profit is added, obviously cress is going to cost so much more than mustard that it is certain we will never see it again in the shops when it has to be grown in heat.

I have checked the comparative cost of growing mustard on a piece of flannel in a saucer on the kitchen window sill against a punnet bought from the green-grocer. The punnet cost 10p and contained about 600 seedlings. A packet of seed I bought cost 23p and contained around 1,400 seeds. So if you grow mustard yourself it costs just about as much as the fresh article in the shop. Obviously, because I cannot

buy fresh cress, I cannot say how much cheaper it would be to grow our own. All I can say is that, to me, an egg and mustard sandwich is not the same as an egg, mustard and cress sandwich, so henceforth we will grow our own mustard and cress. This is one crop, at least, I have never known to give any trouble.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Dull end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, March 26. Contango Day, March 29. Settlement Day, April 5.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

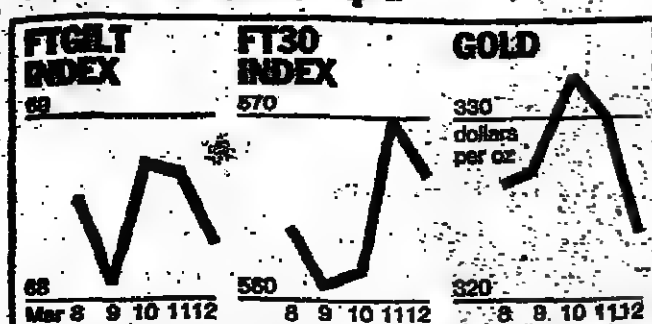
1981/82 High Low Stock Price Chg Pence % P/E 1981/82 High Low Stock Price Chg Pence % P/E 1981/82 High Low Stock Price Chg Pence % P/E 1981/82 High Low Stock Price Chg Pence % P/E

BRITISH FUNDS	1981/82	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Pence	% P/E	COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL	1981/82	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Pence	% P/E						
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Gold losses
Accountants
EC turns
EC industrial
production falls
MARKET
Will end to
LONDON EXCHANGE
OTHER EXCHANGE
COMMODITIES

BUSINESS NEWS

Gold loses \$7



Gold slumped a further \$7 an ounce on the bullion markets, to end the day at \$323.75. This brings the fall on the week to \$19.50. Sterling also declined yesterday, slipping 1.15 cents, to \$1.7995. Over the week, the pound has lost almost 4 cents against the dollar. The FT share index managed a small overall gain of 6.2 points during the last five trading days, but was 1 point down yesterday, at 566.9. Gilt fell back a 1/4 point.

Accountants pay £450,000

A record out-of-court £450,000 cash settlement has been paid to the Stock Exchange by Lutton-based chartered accountants Keens, Gray Keens over their role as auditors to City stockbrokers Chapman and Rowe who were hammered in 1974. No liability has been admitted by the accounting firm, none of whose existing partners were engaged on the Chapman and Rowe audit. The Stock Exchange, which charged Keens with failing to carry out a proper audit, paid £325,000 compensation to investors, after the crash.

STC turns in £50m

Standard Telephones and Cables, the communications group 85 per cent owned by the United States ITT corporation, raised profits to £50.6m against £44.1m for the year to December. Sales were up from £537.7m to £567.5m, and earnings per share were up to 38.46p from 28.65p. A final dividend of 12.85p gross makes a total of 51.31p gross against 41.28p gross last time. The shares rose to 523p, then closed the day at 520p after opening at 490p.

Full report, page 18.

EEC industrial production falls

Industrial production in the European Community fell by 2.5 per cent in 1981 compared with 1980 and 1.65 per cent in December, according to provisional figures. The drop in industrial production contrasted with steady monthly increases in the three previous months. The decline was mainly due to drops in Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Films on cable

Greenwich Cablevision, the south London cable television company and one of the seven in the country awarded an experimental licence by the Home Office, last night launched a new channel devoted entirely to feature films.

Grain forecast

The Soviet Union will probably continue to import 35 to 45 million tonnes of grain a year in order to maintain its standard of living, Mr Robert Horvath, Assistant Secretary of State, said in Washington yesterday. The United States Agriculture Department yesterday estimated that the USSR will import a record 43 million tonnes in the 1981/82 crop year, up from 34.8 million in the previous crop year.

Jobless drop

The rate of increase in unemployment in France is slowing down. At the end of February, 2,063,800 people were out of work, a drop of 30,000 from the end of January.

MARKET SUMMARY

Dull end to Budget account

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 566.9 down 1.0
FT Gilt 86.30 down 0.41
FT All Shares 323.35 down 0.75
Bargains 25,705

Takeover news provided interest as the Budget account came to a generally dull end, with the FT index down 1.0 at 566.9, but a rise on the account of 19.5.

Huntley & Palmer put on 8p to 112p in foods as talks with Abisco continued. Rowntree the original bidder, put on 4p to 170p while Cadbury, which is waiting with interest, shed 4p to 97p.

In properties, Federated Land jumped 14p to 146p in after hours dealing on news of the bid from M.P. Kent, 1p off at 69p. Estates & General shed 7p to 61p following Kent's objections to Federated's bid.

There were a few sellers in gilts, where longs ended 2 1/2 off, mediums were 2 1/2 easier and short dates lost 2 1/2. But enthusiasm continued for the index-linked issues where gains ranged up to 24.

Among leading equities GKN stood out with a 7p gain to 169p ahead of figures next week. Tube Investments were unchanged at 248p after the previous day's gains while Bowne slipped 3p to 246p as revised bid rumours came to nothing.

Profit taking in the brewing sector failed to dent prices with Bass unchanged at 225p and Grand Metropolitan 2p better at 211p. I.P. Butter reached another new high, putting on 3p to 353p, as the market anticipates record profits in two weeks.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,102.61 down 154.73
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,196.90 up 17.12

COMMODITIES

A Saudi Arabian financial institution has made a loan offer to the International Cocoa organization buffer stock of \$70m on favourable terms. Mr Juergen Plambeck, ICCO buffer stock manager confirmed.

Mr Plambeck said the \$70m offer will be submitted to the ICCO council in London next week for consideration.

At the same meeting a loan offer from Brazilian banks totaling \$75m on conditions which have been considerably improved will also be submitted.

Cocoa futures in London steadied slightly in the closing. Call following confirmation that the ICCO buffer stock has received an offer of a \$70m loan from a Saudi institution.

Turnover totalled a quiet 1,801 including 245 cross trades with nearby prices six pence lower to one bid and the rest about unchanged.

CURRENCIES

The pound fell against a stronger dollar which was buoyed by falling Eurodollar interest rates ahead of a predicted big rise in the United States money supply figures to be published late Friday.

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.7995 down 1.15 cents
Index 90.1 down 3 points
DM 4.28
Fr.F 10.9750
Yen 431.50
Dollar
Index 113.7 up 4 points
DM 2.3780 up 10 points
Gold
\$ 323.75 down \$7

MONEY MARKETS

Period rates firmed a shade. The Bank bought £483m of bills at unchanged rates to help relieve a shortage finally put at about £500m.
Domestic Rates:
Base rate 13
3-month interbank 13 1/4-13 1/2
Euro-Currency Rates
3-month dollar 14 1/4-15
3-month DM 9 1/4-9 1/2
3-month Fr.F 16 1/4-16 1/2

New drop in rates ruled out as pound weakens

By Frances Williams

The financial markets do not now expect a fresh drop in interest rates for a while, even though the 1/2 point fall to 13 per cent in bank base rates this week was less than some had hoped for.

Yesterday saw sterling fall below \$1.80 for the first time since last autumn. No Bank of England intervention was detected and analysts do not expect any further move by the Bank to judge interest rates down further while sterling remains vulnerable.

It closed last night in London at \$1.7995, down 1.15 cents from Thursday, and nearly 4 cents lower on the week.

Sterling's weakness was partly caused by a firmer dollar, which was boosted by higher Eurodollar deposit rates ahead of yesterday's United States money supply figures. These were expected to show a huge increase, perhaps of \$243,000m.

Concern is growing that American interest rates may soon be on their way up again as the Fed tries to keep the money supply within its tight target ranges in the face of high seasonal demand next month and some tentative signs that the recession there may be bottoming out.

If United States interest rates rise the British authorities will have less room to cut United Kingdom rates further without risking a fall in sterling, and thus threat-

ening the steady decline they hope to see in inflation.

The financial markets are thus waiting to see whether sterling will settle down after today's fall and what is likely to happen to United States interest rates, before they judge what scope there is for United Kingdom rates to come down.

The Bank of England reinforced this note of caution in the money markets today. It supplied £483m of bills to the money market at dealing rates unchanged from yesterday. At the weekly Treasury Bill tender the average rate at which the three-month bills were allotted fell only fractionally from £12.4972 per cent last week to £12.4650 per cent yesterday.

Gilt's cost suffered from some pessimism on interest rates, falling back after the sharp gains immediately following the Budget. Short-dated stock closed up to £4 down on the day, with long-dated gilts about £4 down. However, both finished the week higher than before the Budget.

Index-linked stocks, initially given a sharp boost by the Budget news that they are to be available to the public, fell back by up to £3 on the day after rising by £12.4 on Wednesday. But the 2006 stock, for example, ended the week about £13 up from before the Budget.

De Lorean creditors give a reprieve

By Robert Rodwell

The joint receivers of De Lorean Motor Cars have persuaded two small creditors in Britain to withdraw the compulsory winding up petition which they had lodged with the Northern Ireland High Court in Belfast.

At the same time it was disclosed yesterday that a full statement of affairs is expected to be published within two weeks and, for the first time, will show exactly what De Lorean's liabilities are and the precise extent of the government's claims against them.

A statement from the receivers, Sir Kenneth Cork and Mr Paul Shewell, said the two petitioners had agreed to withdraw "following explanation of the possible adverse effects of winding up on the interests of the creditors generally. The joint receivers appreciate this action and hope that any other creditors who may be contemplating presenting winding-up petitions may be influenced by it."

De Lorean's 158 creditors in Northern Ireland were called by the news, according to their spokesman, Mr Michael Stevens, because the continued operation of the Belfast plant is their best hope of seeing repayment of any of the money owed.

But they are not optimistic.

Tin curbs considered

By Michael Prest

New moves are to be made by the International Tin Council to strengthen its grip on the market severely disrupted by the recent sharp rise and fall in prices. The council is to meet next Friday to consider introducing export controls.

Earlier this year the ITC called up buffer stock contributions from members which would allow it to purchase as much as 14,500 tonnes. During the decline in tin prices over the past two weeks, the buffer stock has

been a major buyer.

Prices yesterday recovered a little after cash metal fell from £7,035 a tonne on Monday to £6,845 on Thursday. Cash tin closed at £7,130 last night while three months metal was £7,235, compared with £6,947 a tonne the night before.

Mr Pieter de Koning, buffer stock manager, said two days ago that he had sufficient funds to back up tin believed to be for sale by the onetime buyer.



Talks at the top: Mr Cumming, the societies' chairman, with his deputy, Mr Herbert Walden.

Banks join in cutting cost of a mortgage

The biggest-ever cut in the mortgage rate—of 1.5 percentage points, bringing their cost down from record 15 per cent—was announced yesterday by Alan Cumming, chairman of the Building Societies Association (Lorna Bourke writes).

The High Street banks had

been waiting to where the societies would fix their rates and the National Westminster and Barclays immediately announced their own reductions.

NatWest cut its rate by 1 per cent to 13.5 per cent while Barclays quoted 13.75 per cent although, because of

a discrepancy in the way the banks calculate interest, repayments on a Barclays loan are lower than NatWest's. Midland and Lloyds have yet to decide where their new rate will settle. The cheapest loans for sums up to £20,000 are offered by the Trustee Savings Bank, which is

quoting 12.5 per cent. The building societies' new investment rate is 8.75 per cent, down from 9.75 per cent. It should give them room to improve their position and lending has just begun to pick up to last summer's level of £1,000m a month. Spring boost, page 16

Japan starts to go into a decline

Japan yesterday announced the first quarterly decline in its economy in nearly seven years and another drop in exports highlighted the need to stimulate the sagging domestic economy.

The gloomy prospects for many firms in Japan and a fall in the yen also triggered the sharpest drop in share prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange this year.

The economic planning agency, which monitors Japan's economic performance, said that gross national product fell by 0.9 per cent in the final quarter of 1981. It was the first decline since the January to March quarter of 1975, when it fell by 0.7 per cent.

The announcement meant the Japanese economy would not reach the earlier predicted healthy growth rate of 4.1 per cent for this financial year, ending on March 31. The lower yen during the period did little to help exports, the backbone of the economy in recent years.

Officials said domestic demand had been rising, although more slowly than hoped, but it had been more than offset by a 4.3 per cent drop in exports in the October to December quarter of last year. Imports over the period rose by nearly three per cent.

Exports have declined in recent months because of the recession hitting many of Japan's major markets in the west. February figures on trade passing through customs also issued today showed that exports continued to fall.

But imports also fell, and this helped turn a January trade deficit of close to \$2,000m into a surplus last month of more than 100 million.

A Japanese newspaper survey portrayed a fairly bleak six months ahead for Japan's export-oriented companies. Company profits are expected to fall four per cent.

The survey by the financial daily Nihon Keizai Shinbun covered more than 800 firms.

Japan is to announce a voluntary curbing of its car exports to the United States for the financial year starting next month. Officials of the International Trade and Industry Ministry said the curbing would be fixed after considering views given yesterday by Mr James Murphy, deputy assistant United States trade representative.

Car sales in the United States in 1984 were only 8.53 million, with imports a record 27.2 per cent of the total—Reuters.

Nabisco may take the biscuit at Huntley

By Our Financial Staff

A second suitor for Huntley & Palmer, the biscuit group, subject of a £72.5m bid from Rowntree Mackintosh, has emerged after six weeks of speculation.

Huntley revealed yesterday it is holding talks with Nabisco Brands Inc, the United States biscuit company whose brand names include Ritz, Crackers and Shredded Wheat.

Mr Hugh Brown, Huntley's finance director, said talks may or may not lead to an offer and was unable to comment further. But it appears that Huntley is fighting the takeover from Rowntree, approached Nabisco only in the last day or so to see if they would turn long-expressed interest into a firm proposal.

Nabisco, which has ac-

quired a 2.6 per cent stake in Huntley, was also not commenting on the situation. However, Mr Michael Masterpool, a director, said Nabisco had been planning for some time a listing on the London Stock Exchange.

Rowntree, which is offering one share plus 150p cash for every three, Huntley shares jumped 8p to 112p on the news, said: "We await to see the outcome of their discussions."

The spokesman said: "The statement issued by Huntley is only a holding statement and we are making no further comment on it."

Meanwhile Cadbury-Schweppes is adding nothing to the hint made on Thursday by Sir Adrian Cadbury, chairman, that the group may top the bid by Rowntree.

M. P. Kent bids to stop merger by developers

By Philip Robinson

Bristol-based property developer M. P. Kent yesterday launched a surprise takeover bid for Dorking property group Federated.

Kent already owns 14.72 per cent of Federated, which it bought at 130p a share in a dawn raid last September.

Federated's borrowings are about £14m. Debt of Estates and General is put at £10m. Kent says it is a liquid company and that a successful bid would almost wipe clean Federated's balance sheet.

Federated's all-share bid for Estates and General now values the company at 81p a share against the 74p price touched after the bid was announced last Monday.

A condition of the Kent bid is that Federated drop its

merger with Estates and General, launched a week ago. The formal offer document was due to be sent out yesterday.

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Stone-Platt shares tumble

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Shares in Stone-Platt, the textile machinery and engineering group, tumbled 3 1/2p to 129p yesterday after reports that the group is once again having talks with its bankers and may need further finance on top of the support given last year by banks and City institutions.

Stone-Platt has been struggling to sort out its problems since it ran into default on its loans in 1980 and the Bank of England had to coordinate rescue talks.

Last year a £10m capital injection and £40m loan package was put together by the City. There have also been management changes

including the resignation last October of Mr Robin Teverton as chief executive.

Mr Leslie Pincott, chairman, was unavailable for comment yesterday as were the group's merchant bankers, Hill Samuel. The group's ma bankers, Midland and Equity Capital for Industry and Finance for Industry, who both participated in last year's restructuring, would not comment.

Stone-Platt lost £3.5m pre-tax in the first half of last year dashing earlier hopes of break-even for 1981. Full year results are expected soon.

Habitat's style goes East

By Margareta Pagano

Mr Terence Conran, after snapping up the Mothercare chain is going east. His latest venture is Habitat Japan.

This is a joint operation with Seibu and Seiyu, one of Japan's largest retail and transport corporations, whose interests include a private rail company, fashion houses and golf courses.

Details of the deal, which has taken two years to negotiate, were announced yesterday. "They work very fast," said Mr Conran. "I was not expecting a statement yet."

Habitat Design Holdings is linking with Seibu Department Stores. Its parent is not listed although it holds a 20 per cent stake in the quoted Seiyu Stores.

Habitat Japan will be capitalised at 100m yen (£22m) and Habitat has the option to take 10 per cent of the equity. Seibu, Seiyu Stores and Seibu Credit, all part of the privately-run holding company, will own the balance.

Seibu, which is on a par with British Home Stores, will develop and manufacture new goods for marketing through Habitat's stores. The joint firm plans to open 10 stores over the next five years - two in Tokyo this year. Sales are to total 20,000 million yen (£441m) by 1985.

Habitat was first courted two years ago by Seibu, run by Mr T. Tsutsumi, known in Japan as a bold and enterprising operator. A string of other Japanese also tried to do a deal.

"But Seibu attracted us because they seemed clear that European furniture and design could be introduced into the young Japanese market. I see a great future for Habitat there," Mr Conran said.

It also makes sense since many of Habitat's furniture imports come from the Far East and can now sell directly through the chain being developed. Habitat continues to push ahead elsewhere and has 16 outlets in France and Belgium and six in the United States.

Oil safety move

Texaco, the United States-based oil company, has applied for planning permission to build a £10m catalytic reformer at its refinery at Pembroke, South Wales, to enable it to comply with any change in the law on lead content in petrol.

Third Force emerges in the United Kingdom car market

Vauxhall on full throttle back to black

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Vauxhall, the British subsidiary of General Motors, is on course this year to trade profitably for the first time since 1978.

The company yesterday disclosed a net loss last year of £57.4m, against a loss of £83.3m the previous year. All of last year's losses came in the first half, when the deficit was almost £60m. It is clear that Vauxhall has been making profits for the last six months.

The better financial performance happened despite a fall in the value of sales from £766.8m in 1980 to £761.7m.

Mr John Fleming, Vauxhall's new American chairman and managing director, said there was no doubt the company was "on the road back" and the results were expected to improve significantly.

The company, which assembles all but one of its cars



Vauxhall's Luton production line: making profits

mainly from imported components, said that improved prospects indicated an operating but not a net profit for this year.

Vauxhall is emerging as a

third force in the British car market after years of stagnation and recently has captured growing numbers of sales from competitors, particularly BL and Talbot.

Under the guidance of Mr Fleming's predecessor, Ferdinand Beickler, the Vauxhall and Opel dealer network in the United Kingdom has been merged and the marketing and sales effort strengthened. Mr Beickler has returned to Opel, the GM German subsidiary, as managing director after two and half years of office in the United Kingdom.

During the time he presided over a reduction in the Vauxhall workforce from 29,000 to 21,000 and Mr Fleming said yesterday that productivity had improved at all the United Kingdom plants last year.

Total GM car sales in the United Kingdom in the first two months of this year were 29,803 representing more than 12.5 per cent of the market against under 8 per cent a year earlier.

THE PENTLAND INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

Results for the year to 31st December 1981

	1981	1980
Total revenue	£1.96m	£1.96m
Earnings per share	6.28p	6.43p
Dividends per share	6.35p	6.30p
Net asset value per share	212p	194p
Total net assets	£38.6m	£35.5m

- Overseas content increased to 45.1%
- Larger percentage invested in lower yielding growth companies
- Fully invested in balanced spread of investments by industry and country
- 10 year performance: gross dividend up 179% net asset value up 67%

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FAMILY MONEY

Spring boost for homebuyers

Homebuyers will benefit substantially from the record 1.5 per cent cut in the mortgage rate announced yesterday by the building societies. Home loans come down from a high of 15 per cent to 13.5 per cent with immediate effect for new borrowers and from April 1 for those already buying their home.

The cost of a £20,000 25-year loan comes down from £258 a month to £235 before tax relief—a net cost of £167.50 for a new borrower.

The banks wasted no time in matching the building societies' mortgage rates. National Westminster immediately cut its rate by 1 per cent to 13.5 per cent. NatWest customers start paying the new rate on March 16. Barclays was next to move reducing its rate to 13.75 per cent but the actual monthly repayments are lower than those quoted by NatWest.

Cheapest place to borrow for loans under £20,000 is the TSB which brought its mortgage rate down to 12.5 per cent for loans under £20,000, 13.5 per cent above, TSB also throws in free life assurance.

Midland and Lloyds have not moved but an announcement is expected early next week as they will not be able to afford to stay out of line. The cut in home loan rates is not however expected to produce a sudden upsurge in house prices. "We would expect to see house prices rising a little towards the end of this year," said Alan Cumming, chairman of the Building Societies Association, but he pointed out that house prices are linked to

incomes and families' real incomes are expected to fall this year "so we won't see a sharp increase in house prices".

And the good news for homebuyers was matched by a generous offer for savers. The societies have cut the recommended investment rate by only 1 per cent from 9.75 per cent to 8.75 per cent, equivalent to 12.5 per cent before tax to a basic rate taxpayer.

With a 1.5 per cent reduction in the mortgage rate cut, a cut of more than 1 per cent was on the cards.

Most building society investors are receiving 1 per cent more than the recommended rates on "extra interest" accounts. At 9.75 per cent, net of basic rate tax, even basic rate taxpayers can expect a real return—taking into account inflation—on their investment. The Chancellor has said he expects inflation to run about 9 per cent during the coming 12 months so investors are 0.75 per cent in pocket.

The banks, by comparison look pretty miserable. Even the non-taxpayer who will receive the full 10.25 per cent

(10.0 at the Midland) can do much better by moving into a National Savings Bank Investment Account which pays 13.5 per cent from April 1, or into one of the money funds run by Simco or Tyndall paying slightly more.

"We think we should certainly be able to keep our rates at around their current level for the next week or two," commented Brian Pefferall of Tyndall, "and even when a reduction comes it should only be about 0.5 per cent".

Post Offices were jammed on Wednesday as investors took advantage of the last opportunity to buy 23rd issue National Savings certificates—withdrawn by the Chancellor in his Budget speech. But most excitement has been over the new issue of index-linked gilt edged securities. These link an attractive bet for all taxpayers provided they are allocated at their face value of £100 for every £100 nominal of stock—cheaper. At anything above this level, granny bonds look a better bet.

The new index-linked gilts are particularly attractive to higher rate taxpayers, and like other gilts they are free of capital gains tax if held for more than a year.

The application forms which appeared in newspapers in Thursday look a little daunting, but it is worth ploughing through the small print—or handing it all over to your bank manager or stockbroker to deal with. On page 17 Sally White explains how to cope if you intend to "go it alone".



Go for gilts — they are as good as granny bonds

For investors the most innovative change in the Chancellor's Budget was the opening up of index-linked gilts to individuals. An issue has been announced with application forms already published in daily newspapers and investors should not be put off by the forms' complicated appearance.

If you "tender" for the new index-linked gilts at the nominal price of £100 for £100 of stock, they are as attractive as granny bonds. At anything cheaper—£99 or £98 per £100—they are a bargain and provided you can afford to have your money locked up for a possible six years, they are an attractive proposition for taxpayers.

Unlike granny bonds which can be sold back to the Government after 12 months for the full index-linked value, investors in the new index-linked gilt must sell their stock in the market if they want to cash in before the redemption date. The unknown quantity is how the gilt market will react in pricing these stocks so investors should be prepared to hold them the full six years.

For this reason, investors requiring income should be wary of purchasing. Both capital and income from these gilts is index-linked, but the initial return is low—only 2 per cent. Like conventional gilts they are free of capital gains tax if held for more than a year.

Tendering for the stock—application forms have to be at the Bank of England's new issue department by 10am on Friday—is not difficult once you know how. Stockbrokers Laurie Millbank have worked out for us a range of prices to "tender" depending on how great a premium over the rate of inflation you think is reasonable. The Chancellor believes inflation



The right to buy this indexed stock was restricted to pension funds. I have now decided to remove this restriction and the Bank of England is announcing a new issue of indexed stock on an unrestricted basis. — the Chancellor Sir Geoffrey Howe.

will run at 9 per cent over the coming year.

Remember you will probably not be able to buy at the price you have tendered. The Bank has the right to start at the highest tender and work its way down the list of tender prices until the allocation is full. Then the Bank will declare the "striking price" which will be lowest level at which the allocation

Return Required over Inflation	Tender Price to Offer
1.5%	£102.75
2.0%	£100
2.5%	£97.25
3.0%	£94.25

is full. Everyone pays the striking price, even if they have tendered at a higher price. Anyone tendering below the striking price will not receive stock. The Bank may decide to ration the stock if more tenders than it requires have come in at the striking price.

Tendering must be for a minimum of £100 nominal of stock. Each tender must be for just one amount, and at one price. The price should be in multiples of 25p. If you do not write in a tender price, then your form will be discounted.

If you missed the application forms, your local bank manager, insurance or stockbroker may have one. If you obtain stock through your broker, you will not have to pay dealing commission as it is a new issue, but you may face a fee.

The cheque should be for half the nominal or face value of the stock—£50 for each £100 of stock. The balance has to be paid by April 29. The form and cheque should be at the Bank of England by 3.30 pm on Thursday though the official close is not until 10.00 am on Friday, March 19.

The capital redemption is the most attractive element. It is invested since it is tax-free after a year. Taking the July 1981 base, and the starting 9 per cent inflation for this year, Laurie Millbank have gone on to use the conservative Treasury assumption of 7½ per cent inflation for the subsequent year and extending this rate to 1988.

That gives the redemption sum of £152.10 for each £100. Of course, if the Government forecast is optimistic then the redemption sum will be higher. If inflation under-shoots, then the redemption payment drops.

Sally White

MONEY TALK

Improved terms for investors

For building society investors the choice of extra-interest accounts is truly mind-boggling.

Most accounts pay 1 per cent over the building societies' recommended rate, but these are varying terms for withdrawal. Societies have recently been improving the terms of these accounts—generally reducing the notice period and easing the withdrawal penalties.

Provincial, Bradford & Bingley and Halifax building societies now only require one month's notice in writing for no penalty to be incurred. The norm up until now was three months. They are also reducing the penalty for immediate withdrawals.

The Provincial and the Bradford & Bingley deduct 28 days interest while others deduct a month's interest.

Interest reform falls due

The payment of interest on National Savings Bank Investment Accounts comes perilously near to being a fraud.

Interest is paid on whole pounds deposited for whole calendar months so it is possible, if you pay in money at the beginning of one month and withdraw it at the end of the following month, to have no interest at all on money deposited for nearly two months.

Reforming this system is on National Savings' list of "things to do" but due to civil service inertia is currently languishing. A way down the table of computer amendments. There is, apparently, no reason why it is not given top priority.

Golden bonus for executives

Companies wanting to slim down their workforce can expect a rush of senior executives volunteering for redundancy. After April 6 the new provisions for taxing golden handshakes comes into force and the existing concessions for payments in excess of £25,000 disappear. At present the first £25,000 is tax free and any excess is taxed at half your marginal rate of tax. The maximum tax payable on the excess over £25,000 is therefore 30 per cent.

But from April 6, 1983, the first £25,000 is tax free, the next £25,000 is taxed at half your marginal rate of tax and the next £25,000 is taxed at three-quarters of your marginal rate. Any excess over £75,000 will be taxed in full. Jack Gill, the AECF director who was due to receive a golden handshake of £560,000, must be glad he decided to take redundancy well before April 6.

HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY

Building societies please both savers and investors

The Bank of Scotland is now offering a very canny credit scheme—even to Sassenachs. It's called Scotplan.

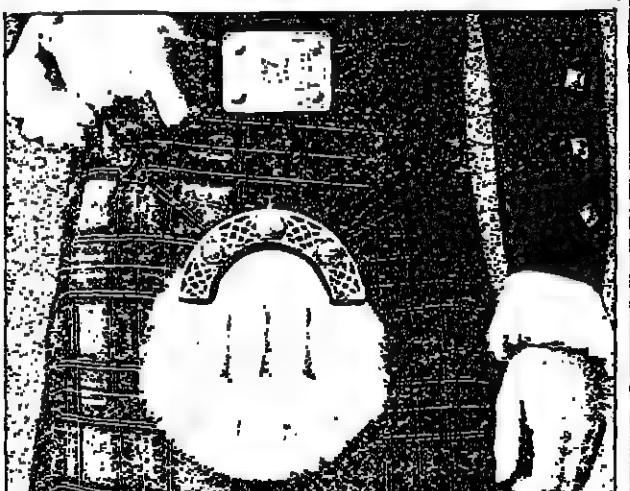
No need to be a Scot, no need to have an account with us—Scotland's oldest Bank, established way back in 1695—to benefit from Scotplan. The coupon below is the way to get in touch with us. What it's all about.

- ✳ Scotplan means immediate credit when you want it—without asking.
- ✳ While your account is in credit it'll earn you interest every month.
- ✳ We'll give you a credit limit of 30 times your monthly payment, which you make by direct debit. For example, £30 a month lets you spend up to £900. £25, up to £750 and so forth. Your choice of monthly amount doesn't change until you want it to.
- ✳ With Scotplan you get a standard cheque book and cheque card that can be used anywhere. A monthly statement keeps you up to date.
- ✳ The interest on money borrowed through Scotplan is at 1.75% per month (A.P.R. 23.1%). This rate may vary from time to time in line with the general level of interest rates.
- ✳ Spend your Scotplan credit on anything you like, where and when you like.
- ✳ It's entirely your own affair.

Fill in the coupon now for full details and an application form. It's certainly worth your while.

Scotplan

It's a very canny credit scheme



To: Bank of Scotland, Central Banking Services, Freeport, Edinburgh EH1 0AA.

Please send me details and an application form for 'Scotplan'.

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____ T/13/3

BANK OF SCOTLAND

Boost to limit on payment for child

The limit on small maintenance payments made to children is to be increased in the summer as part of the Chancellor's Budget changes.

Maintenance payments made under a Court Order (usually after a divorce) must be paid without deduction of tax if they come into the category of "small maintenance payments". As from the date of passing the 1982 Finance Act—some time in the summer—the limit on small maintenance payments made to a child will increase from £18 a week to £33 a week (or £143 a month).

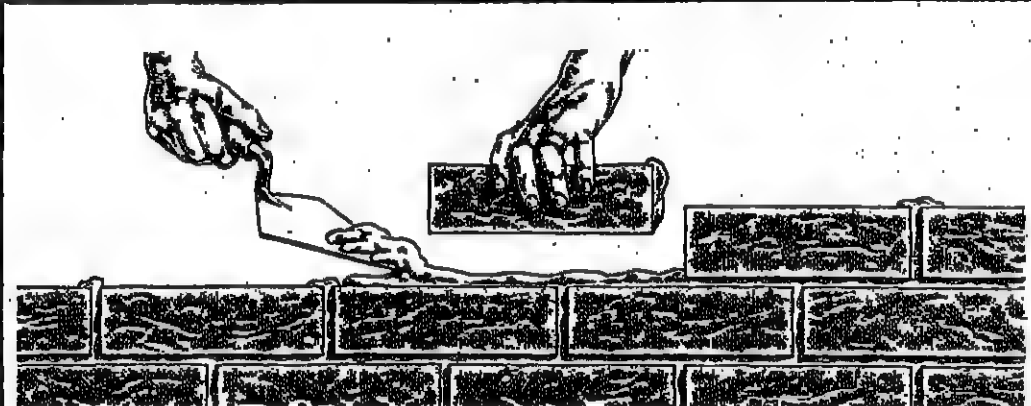
Such payments are not tax free and the payer (usually an ex-husband) is not allowed to deduct tax before paying. The child will pay tax on these payments in the normal way if income exceeds the personal tax allowance, £1,565 for 1982/83.

However, the Budget proposals constitute a change. Where money is paid to an ex-wife for the benefit of a child, instead of to the child direct, the limit on small maintenance payments will remain at £18 a week of £78 a month. The £33 a week of £143 a month limit on small maintenance payments made to a divorced or separated spouse remains unchanged.

Sorting out finances after a divorce is a minefield.

Where there are young children it pays to have some of the maintenance paid direct to the child to be treated as the child's income. The first £1,565 (1982-83) will be tax free in the hands of the child who is eligible for personal tax allowances in the normal way. A divorced wife is entitled to a personal tax allowance, plus the "additional personal allowance" for single parents bringing the limit of her tax free income up to that of a married man (£2,445 1982-83). But above this figure income, which includes maintenance payments, will be taxed in the usual way.

Lorna Bourke



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By investing in smaller companies now, you could well be investing in tomorrow's winners. Some of today's most successful large companies have developed from relatively small beginnings in the last ten years or so. Now, even in a recession, many smaller companies have the innovation and flair to restructure for future growth. In short, their investment potential is often far greater than that of their larger counterparts.

The aim—capital growth. The Trust aims for above-average capital growth by investing in a diverse range of smaller UK companies, which, the Managers believe, have exceptional recovery prospects. The Trust concentrates on companies with a market capitalisation of £20 million or less, including companies trading on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Professional management is essential. Investing in the potential successes among smaller companies requires specialist in-depth knowledge combined with skilful timing. The team of professionals at Gartmore have proved over the years that they have exceptional expertise in this. David Collins, writing in the Sunday Telegraph, said of the Trust on 13/9/81 "The aim is above-average capital growth, something Gartmore funds always seem to achieve".

As a measure of the Trust's success, the offer price of units has risen by 27.6% since the launch last September, and the Trust is now valued at over

£7 million. Although this excellent short-term performance is no guarantee of future results, we believe that the investment policy for the Trust will ensure a continuing high level of growth. Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

How to invest. You can invest from £200 upwards: just complete and post the coupon below. The Trust's estimated current gross yield is 3.39% p.a. For your guidance the offer price of units on 11th March, 1982 was 31.3p.

Further Information. You can obtain information on other Gartmore units by sending the appropriate box on the coupon, details are now available on Form 1000/82.

The Trust is controlled and administered by a Trust Deed dated 28th August, 1981. Income is distributed twice a year on 30th November. The first distribution will be on 30th November, 1982. Dividends are paid to shareholders at net income tax as at that time. Income tax can be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue if you are entitled to do so. A management charge of 1% is included in the price of the units. Out of this, the Managers will pay commission to authorised agents on request. There is an annual charge of 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the funds which is deducted from income, and which is added back for the purposes of the gross yield. The Trust Deed provides a maximum annual charge of 1% (plus VAT). The Trust is a limited liability company. The Managers of the Trust are Gartmore Fund Managers Limited, 27, Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BP. Tel: 01-623 6114. A member of the City of London Association. This offer is available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Over £7000,000 invested since launch. Apply now.

Application for Units in Gartmore UK Smaller Companies Recovery Trust

To: Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd., 27, Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BP.

Telephone: 01-623 6114. (Read No. 1177/82. Regd. address as above)

I/We should like to invest £ _____ (minimum £200)

in Gartmore UK Smaller Companies Recovery Trust at the offer price of _____ on the date of receipt.

I/We enclose a remittance, payable to Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd.

Surname (Giv. Mrs. Miss) _____

First Name(s) in full _____

Address _____

Signature(s) _____ T/13/3/82

(For applicant must sign and attach names and addresses separately)

GARTMORE

£5,000,000 under Group Management

THE BUDGET

EDITED BY LORNA BOURKE

Taxpayers' gain will prove a tax planners' nightmare



"A pretentious little wine — leaves an ill-bred metallic aftertaste of customs and excise on the palate."

How to keep up your spirits despite extra duty

The Chancellor's decision to raise excise duties on wines and spirits in Tuesday's Budget does not necessarily spell gloom for the investor. His "sensible presumption" that (excise duties) should be adjusted in line with the movement in prices from one year to the next resulted in excise duty rises of £1.04 per dozen bottles on light wine, £1.27 on champagne and other sparkling wines, £1.57 on port, and approximately £3.13 on spirits like cognac and armagnac. In addition, the Treasury gains by 15 per cent VAT on these increases. Many wine and spirit merchants were expecting a small rise and had cleared stocks duty-paid. Balls Bros (313 Cambridge Heath Road, London, E2 9LQ) will, for instance, hold prices for four weeks from Budget day; this includes their two wine investment schemes, Justerli & Brooks (61 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1LZ) aims to hold spirit prices until April 1 and wine prices until possibly later. Leytons Wine Merchants (20 Midland Road, London, NW1 2AD) have extended the closing date of their wine investment plan to March 19, subject to stocks remaining available. It is for a mixed cellar, purchased by regular monthly payments over a six month period. It includes Sandeman 1977 port and the outstanding 1978 claret vintage in Ch. Grand Puy Ducasse. Like many country wine merchants, Lay and Wheeler (6 Culver Street, Colchester, CO1 1J) is aiming to hold its prices until a new list is issued on April 1. No excise duty or VAT is liable for stocks of wines and spirits bought and stored under bond. Most reputable merchants will quote for the better wines of investment potential without duty and can advise whether they can undertake storage or recommend a suitable public bond (a list of which is obtainable from HM Customs and Excise). With a wine like vintage port the combined excise duty and VAT can amount to over £20 a case. Wines and spirits are more attractive to overseas bidders at auction as well as to

investors will welcome the Government's move in index-linking capital gains tax — a move that, for most people will mean the end of CGT. But it presents tax planners with more permutations than Rubik's Cube and some stockbrokers are wondering if their computers will stand the strain.

The Budget has made three main changes to capital gains tax. First the annual exemption from CGT is raised from £3,000 to £5,000. For many modest investors, this alone will effectively mean the end of CGT. Secondly, this threshold is in future to be raised in line with inflation each year. Thirdly, and far more complicated, profits in the disposal of investments will be adjusted to take account of inflation.

Capital Gains Tax will be payable on that part of any gain which exceeds the rise in the Retail Prices Index, starting from March 1982. For example, if you buy an asset for £100 and the RPI rises by 10 per cent, you will pay capital gains tax only on any profits over £110. But you must have held the asset for a year before any index-linking applies.

For owners of second homes and other property the new provisions will provide welcome relief... Capital gains tax on property should be virtually eliminated.

But for owners of shares and other securities the implications of the provisions are difficult to understand. Derek Scrivener who heads the financial services department of stockbrokers Capel Cure Myers says "until we see the Finance Bill we won't know in detail how it is supposed to work, but it looks as though the administrative side of private client portfolios is going to be much more time consuming." It also, as Mr Scrivener explains, turns the time-

losses to mitigate the tax liability on gains, and holding on to his shares to retain the higher base line that goes with index-linking. Because bed and breakfasting counts as a proper disposal, the investor is caught by the one year rule — he will not benefit from any index-linking in the twelve months after bed and breakfasting. It is rather like trying to pat your head and rub your tummy.

For owners of second homes and other property the new provisions will provide welcome relief... Capital gains tax on property should be virtually eliminated.

later have fallen in value to £750. By that time, assuming 10 per cent inflation each year, the new index-linked base line on the shares will be £1,320. If you bed and breakfast you establish a £250 loss which can be set against other gains, but you have a new base line of only £750 and you will have to wait another year before the index-linking starts again.

If you hang on to the shares, you retain the higher base line for calculating capital gains and are eligible for any index-linked increases in the base line during the following 12 months. Assuming a further 10 per cent inflation this would mean a base line of £1,452.

Suppose these share then

rise in value to £1,500. The persons who has not bed and breakfasted earlier will pay CGT on only £48 — the excess over the new base line of £1,452. The investor who bed and breakfasted at £750 would have saved a maximum of £75 in CGT — 30 per cent of the £250 loss established but will now have a CGT liability on the sale at £1,500, of £225. This could, of course fall within the annual exemption.

It looks as though bed and breakfasting losses may become a thing of the past as holding on to your losses and utilizing the higher index-linked cost base could well be worth more in the long run.

You may want to be bed and breakfast to profit to utilize your exemption, but you will have to take into account the subsequent loss of one year's index-linking.

It may however, pay you to establish a higher base line for your shares even at the expense of sacrificing one year's index-linking. Suppose you buy £1,000 worth of shares which rise to £1,500 over two years. If the RPI moves up by 10 per cent in that second year the base cost for tax purposes is £1,100. Bed and breakfasting will however have established a new base cost of £1,500 — higher than you would obtain by simply hanging on to your shares.

In cases of a marginal gain, however, it could be that the rate of inflation outstrips the gain. The wise investor will take professional advice.

Margaret Drummond

Improvement grants are upgraded

Home improvement grants worth as much as £10,000 are for the asking following this week's Budget and the Chancellor's attempt to breathe a little life into Britain's building industry.

As with all such grants there are plenty of catches but the money is definitely available for people who are either prepared or ready to put up with refurbishing run down houses.

In his speech last Tuesday the Chancellor defined three types of improvements for which the Government was prepared to earmark £100m. These cover roof insulation, provision of basic amenities and structural work.

gible. So if you are thinking of taking on a run down property you will have to act soon.

The scheme is expected to run from about mid-April when an order is placed before Parliament. This gives you about eight months to apply for the appropriate grant.

Another piece of encouragement from the Chancellor is that he has boosted the cash help available for roof insulation. It is raised from a maximum of £65 to £89 although there is some indi-

cation that a greater emphasis will be placed on quality of insulation.

The elderly, low income earners and disabled will see their grants rise from £90 to £95, or 90% of the cost, whichever is the lower.

It is to your advantage to approach your local council for fuller details on these schemes when they are introduced next month. Some councils are better than others at making the public aware of the grants available.

Baron Phillips

More aid for the Self-Employed Unlocking Retirement fund cash

A PENSION YOU CAN SAVE AND SPEND

MAKE YOUR PENSION PAY TODAY

AT LAST! THE COMPLETE SELF-EMPLOYED PENSION PLAN-BEFORE AND AFTER RETIREMENT.

UP TO 55% HIGHER RETURN THAN DIRECT INVESTMENT INTO A BUILDING SOCIETY

This unique plan—highly praised by the National Press—provides the security of investing in Building Societies (all members of the Building Societies Association) plus the certainty of a far higher return.

- Outstanding non-speculative Capital Growth.
- Monthly, Annual or Lump Sum investment.
- Provides a predictable sum at a given date with absolute security.
- Also available to children 12 or over.
- Should continue to beat inflation.

The Building Society Investment Plan is specifically designed to protect your savings against inflation. For taxpayers—standard or higher rate—the advantages are substantial. High yield and built-in flexibility make the Plan ideal for providing a predictable sum at a given date.

The most profitable way to invest in Building Societies

R.J. TEMPLE & COMPANY

Accountants & Investment Consultants, Southbridge House, 27 Grand Parade, Brighton BN2 2QR. Tel. (0273) 60502/68188.

Please send me full details of this Investment Plan by return.

Name _____ Address _____ Birth date (male) _____ Birth date (female) _____ I have available to invest monthly/annually £ _____ Lump sum of £ _____ Highest Tax Rate _____ TM81

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks

Current account — no interest paid. Deposit accounts — Barclays, Lloyds, and NatWest 10 per cent. Midland 10 per cent. Savings notice required for withdrawals. For sums of £10,000 or more rate fixed for the term. Fixed-term deposits — 1 month, 12 per cent; 3 and 6 months, 12 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Money funds

Since 7-day fund, 13.92 per cent; UIT Average Rate Deposit Fund, 14 per cent; Tyndall 7-day fund, 13.5 per cent; Simco dollar fund, 14.12 per cent; interest paid without deduction of tax. Further details from Simco (01-236 0233), Tyndall (0272-732241), UIT (scheme now closed to new investment).

National Savings Bank

Ordinary accounts — Interest 5 per cent; first £70 of interest tax-free. Investment Account — 14 per cent, interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £200,000. Reducing to 13½ per cent on April 1.

National Savings Index-linked certificates

Maximum investment: £5,000, return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail prices index, 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 certificates purchased in March 1977, £184.17 including 4 per cent bonus.

Guaranteed Income Bonds

Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity. Portfolio years, General — minimum investment £500. Three years, general portfolio 11.2 per cent net — minimum investment £500. Four years, American Life, 12.00-13.5 per cent (dependent on age) — minimum investment £1,000. Five years, Lamont Life 12 per cent net — min. investment £1,000.

Building societies

Ordinary share accounts—8.75 per cent. Term shares—1 to 5 years, between 0.5 per cent and 2 per cent.

BSA recommended ordinary share rates depending on the term. Regular savings schemes — 1.25 per cent. BSA recommended ordinary share rate for those above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax, not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Local authority yearling bonds

12-month fixed rate investments, interest 13½ per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

Local authority town hall bonds

Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance Loans Bureau (01-828 7855, after 3 pm). See also on Praxtel no 24808.

Finance houses deposits (UIT)

Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deductions of tax. For sums of between £5,000 and £50,000: 6 months, 12½ per cent; 1 year, 12 per cent; 2 years, 13 per cent.

Foreign currency deposits

Interest paid without deduction of tax.

US dollar (call) 12½ per cent 1 day 7 days 12 per cent 2 days 3 per cent 3 per cent 3 per cent 6 per cent 6 per cent 6 per cent 10 per cent 10 per cent 10 per cent 1 per cent 1 per cent 1 per cent

US dollar (call) 12½ per cent 1 day 7 days 12 per cent 2 days 3 per cent 3 per cent 3 per cent 6 per cent 6 per cent 6 per cent 10 per cent 10 per cent 10 per cent 1 per cent 1 per cent 1 per cent

French Franc 10 per cent 10 per cent 10 per cent 1 per cent 1 per cent 1 per cent

Swiss Franc 1 per cent 1 per cent 1 per cent

*Rates quoted by Midland Bank — other banks may differ.

PERPETUAL GROUP INCOME FUND

Top Income Fund in 1981

Another top performer from Perpetual

For those investors who want a higher income than average from equities together with good prospects of capital growth, Perpetual offer their Income Fund. This was the top-performing income fund for capital growth in 1981 when its units rose 23.4% compared to a rise of 11.8% in the FT Ordinary Index. The Fund was also the top-performing unit trust of all trusts for capital growth for the twelve months to March 1st 1982. The estimated gross annual yield was 7.18% at the offer price of 70.7p on 10th March 1982. Perpetual are managers of the Perpetual Group Growth Fund which has out-performed all other unit trusts for capital growth over the period since it was launched on 11th September 1974. Why not send for details?

Source: Money Management, Income Invested.

To: Perpetual Group, 48 Hart Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG2 2AZ. Telephone: (04912) 6888.

Please send me details on: Income Fund, Growth Fund, Share Exchange, Savings Plan

Name (Mr/Ms/Miss) _____ Address _____

PERPETUAL

THE M&G YEAR BOOK 1982

M&G's Year Book, designed as an aide-memoire for professional advisers, is also available for private investors interested in M&G's wide range of investments and financial services.

The M&G Group, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Telephone: 01-626 4584. Please send a free copy of the M&G Year Book 1982.

Mr Mrs Miss INITIALS SURNAME _____ ADDRESS _____ POSTCODE _____ SY 48012

THE M&G GROUP

THE VANBRUGH FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT PLAN

The Vanbrugh Flexible Retirement Plan is built on some of the most generous tax concessions ever offered to one section of the community.

- * Up to 17½% of net relevant earnings can be invested in a pension plan to qualify for tax relief of up to 60p in the £.
- * This relief can be claimed in respect of unused relief for the previous 6 years.
- * All investment income and capital gains accumulate in tax exempt funds. Pensions do not attract investment income surcharge. Death benefits can normally be arranged without liability to Capital Transfer Tax.

Such advantages are, of course, common to all self-employed pension plans, but with the Vanbrugh Flexible Retirement Plan they are only the beginning of a uniquely attractive investment proposition.

THE LOANBACK FACILITY

You can now invest in a pension plan without locking up your money until you retire. Vanbrugh's LOANBACK FACILITY may allow you to borrow back a sum equal to the value of your accumulated funds at any time between now and retirement. The net interest on the loan accrues for the benefit of your own pension plan.

Plus a lump sum available immediately.

Investors in the Vanbrugh Flexible Retirement Plan may now borrow up to fifteen times their initial annual investment (subject to security and credit worthiness) from Forward Trust Limited, a subsidiary of Midland Bank, allowing investors to boost their liquidity immediately. Written quotations are available from Vanbrugh Pensions Limited.

The investment management of the Prudential

The Vanbrugh Pension Funds are managed directly by Prudential Portfolio Managers Limited, employing the Investment Fund Managers of The Prudential Assurance Company Limited, the UK's largest corporate investment institution. These funds constitute a complete range of investment opportunities — and you can vary your choice from year to year between the Property Fund, Equity Fund, Fixed Interest Fund, Guaranteed Fund, Index Linked Gilt Fund, and the Managed Fund.

A flexible approach to early retirement

More and more professional people now choose to retire before 65. To make this possible, the Vanbrugh Flexible Retirement Plan lives up to its name; you could start drawing your pension as early as 60, in phases if required.

Built-in insurance against accident or illness

For annual plans a small additional annual sum insures you against future inability, through accident or illness, to continue in the same occupation. Should this happen, your pension contribution will be waived.

Loyalty bonus after 10 years

When at least 10 yearly premiums or 120 monthly premiums have been paid into the Vanbrugh Flexible Retirement Plan, all benefits will be increased by 2½% on retirement.

Please post this coupon promptly to take full advantage of tax relief available before April 5th. Your pension should now be your top investment priority.

To: Vanbrugh Pensions Limited, 41/43 Maddox St., London W1R 9LA. Tel: 01-499 4923. Please send me full details of the Vanbrugh Flexible Retirement Plan.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ TEL _____

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Vanbrugh

A member of the Prudential Group

A member of the Life Offices Association

ICE SKATING

A bouquet of applause: Scott Hamilton (centre), winner of the men's championship, with Norbert Schramm (left, second) and Brian Pockar.

Triple jump helps E. German to advance four places

From John Hennessy, Copenhagen, March 12

The women's short programme threw a fair-sized spanner into the world ice skating works here today. Only one competitor, Katarina Witt, of East Germany, succeeded with a triple jump in the difficult combination and so advanced remarkably from ninth place to fifth in the overall positions.

She is recognised as the best free skater in the world, as she confirmed today, and it is well within her compass to overcome the unexpected leader, Kristina Yamaguchi, of Japan, who had been expected to place the optimal jump second.

Her principal choreographer, Mr. John Hennessy, of the Soviet Union, was not behind her, and she therefore placed ahead of Miss Witt.

Yamaguchi, who had been expected to place the optimal jump second, was disappointed to find her jump placed fourth, behind Witt's. Her principal choreographer, Mr. John Hennessy, of the Soviet Union, was not behind her, and she therefore placed ahead of Miss Witt.

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Miss Witt landed a triple toe

Since she needed a two-footed landing to stay upright, she must

have been marked for a poor

jump, but a triple toe jump

is a double, which would of

course have attracted heavy

penalties.

Scott Hamilton, from Bowling

Green, Ohio, also moved in the

top of the field, from 10th to

5th, by a whisker from Norbert

Schramm, the European cham-

pion from West Germany. Ham-

ilton, needing four first places,

has only three more to go. He

two more on a tie-break for

technical merit.

Mr. Hennessy, 1, 5 Hamilton (10

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Progressive Holmoor Star is in the ascendant

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

The weather has again hit today's racing. The programme planned for Cheltenham which was to have featured the £15,000 final of the Panama Cigar Hurdle series, had to be called off yesterday after the stewards had inspected the track and found it was too dangerous, following a heavy rain storm which had hit the south and west during the morning.

This is the first time that the final of this series has been a victim of the weather but the fact that it has been called off is a pity, as the winner, John Hughes, would have been able to claim the £15,000 prize money and the title of champion.

The winner of the final, John Hughes, would have been able to claim the £15,000 prize money and the title of champion.

The winner of the final, John Hughes, would have been able to claim the £15,000 prize money and the title of champion.

Warrington was also responsible for yesterday's meeting at Kempton Park being cancelled

early in the morning. Today's

meeting was held on an

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Sports Desk, 11.10 Geo
Ferguson's / Jet Show.†

Radio 1
 6.00 am As Radio 2 7.00 Wake Up to the Weekend with Adrian John, 8.00 Tony Blackburn's Saturday Show, 9.00 Paul Barrett, 1.00 pm Adrian Bush, 2.00 A King in New York, with Jonathan King, 2.05 Paul Wamboldt, 4.00 Walkers' Weekly, with John Waters, 5.00 Rock On, 5.30 in Concert, featuring UFO, 7.30 News, VHF Radio 1, 8.00 and 8.30 am with Radio 2, 9.00 am with Radio 1, 9.30-10.00 am with Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

[illegible]

2.30 Sports review, 3.00 News
news, 3.09 News About Britain, 3.15 From
Our Own Correspondent, 3.30 Rhythm 'n'
Dance, 4.00 Newswatch, 5.45 Letter from
America.

ULSTER

is London except: Starts 10.00 am-0.30 Sthgroy, 5.00 pm-5.05 Sports results, 5.13 News, 5.15-5.45 Mr Merlin, 7.45-8.45 Magnum, 10.50 Monte Carlo Show; With Helen Reddy and David Essex, 11.40 News at Bedtime, Closedown.

BORDER

is London except: Starts 9.35am-12.30, 5.15-5.45 Mr

SCOTCH
 As London except: Starts 9.15 am
 Ricky the Viking, 9.40-10.00
 Woodhucks, 5.15-5.45 Mr Merlin,
 1.50 Lala Cat, 11.55 The 7
 Hollywood, 12.20 am Closedown.

YORKSHIRE
 As London except: Starts 9.00 am
 10.50 Film: Tarzan goes to India (Jack
 Palance) 11.00-11.30
 A beautiful princess who needs help to
 saving thousands of elephants from
 5.15-5.45 Mr Merlin, 7.45-
 1.45 Mega, 11.55 The 7
 Hollywood, 12.20 am.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: † STEREO
 * BLACK AND WHITE GO REPEAT.

Radio 1

10.00 Tony Blackburn's Sunday Show. 10.00 Noel Edmonds. 1.00 pm Jimmy Savile's "Old Record" Club. 1.00 Sunday B15 with David Jensen. 3.00 Top 40 with Tommy Vance. 7.00 The Record Producers. Richard "erry." 8.00 Sounds of Jazz. 10.00 News. 10.15 RADIOTOP 1 and 25.6.01 ms with Radio 2. 5.00 pm with Radio 1. 0.00-5.00 with Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (548 kHz 653kHz) at the following times (GMT): 5.00 News. 7.00 News. 7.00 News. 7.00 News. 7.15 From Our Own Correspondents.

[illegible]

GRAMPIAN

at London except: Starts 9.15am
Reached Louth: 9.30-10.00 Be Your
Own Boss, 10.00 Morning Weather,
10.15 God's Story, 10.30-11.00
History Makers: Napoleon, 11.30-
12.00 Gardening Time, 1.00pm
The Unlikely Challenge, 2.30 Farming
Outlook, 2.00-3.30 Film: Broken Arrow
(John Stewart, Dabba Paget Western
Cast), 3.30-4.00 The Legend of
Arrows and hearts, 4.00 Behind the
Veil, 4.30 Scoops, 5.30-6.30 Film:
15-18-Hr Hart to Hart, 12.15am
Reflections, 12.20 Close Down.

BORDER

at London except: Starts 9.20am Be
Your Own Boss, 9.50 God's Story
1.10-1.30 Gardening Time, 1.00pm
Farming Outlook, 1.30-2.30 Robson's
Country, 3.30 Here's Boomer, 4.00
Behind the Veil, 4.30 Border Diary,
5.35-6.30 Film: When the Legends Die
(Richard Widmark) American Indian is
forced to leave the Rockies to attend a
reservation school, 7.15-8.15 Hart to
Hart, 12.15am Closeown.

the MTV West except: 2.00 pm-2.30
Muppet Show with guest Jean-Pierre
Rampal, the festival, 3.30 Terry Lloyd
France, 4.00-4.30 Mark and Mandy.

CENTRAL

the London except: Starts 8.50am
"Farming 82, 9.50 Be Your Own Boss
8.50-9.50, 10.30-11.30, 12.30-1.30
Gardening Time, 1.00pm University
Challenges, 1.30 Here and Now, 2.00-
3.30 Benson, 3.30 Film: *Hi-Met By*
Midnight (Clark Gable, Merle
Coe), 4.30 Coring, In Case during the German
occupation, British agents work with
partisans to capture a German
general, 5.50 Cartoon, 5.50-6.00
Adventures of Flap, 6.00-6.15-8.15
Hart to Hart, 12.50pm Closedown.

